Reaching new heights

The picturesque High Post GC, in Wiltshire

Inside...

PREPARING SLALEY HALL
Part Two of the build-up for the PGA Senior Tour

A LIFE CHANGING TRIP
Toro Student of the Year, Matt Perks reveals all about his trip to the States

ALSO INSIDE... TURF PESTICIDES (PART II) : UTILITY VEHICLES
Changes (also in the weather)

They say the British are obsessed with the weather and in my experience that is also true of the greenkeeping profession!

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It provided a glorious end to Chris Kennedy’s epic career at Wentworth. A tournament won by a British world number 1 in superb style was a fitting climax to the 52nd Tour event to be held under Chris’s stewardship. Now retirement awaits, enjoy it Chris, you’ve certainly earned it.

Having watched Luke Donald show us all how it is done our attention turns to finding out who will be BIGGA’s Champion Golfer of 2012.

I am delighted that Kubota and Charterhouse have once again chosen to support the BIGGA National Championship as title sponsors. The event will take place on 8th and 9th October with the excellent Irvine GC on the West coast of Scotland providing the examination for all those bidding to succeed Jason Hunt to be engraved on our prestigious trophy.

The entry form is available now on page 58, and at www.bigga.org.uk

Entries are limited so don’t delay.

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Both brought great energy and ideas to the recruitment process and will I am certain serve the needs of the membership with great diligence.

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Greenwood, Arnold Phipps-Jones, Jeremy Collin
Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Stuart Larter

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High hopes
Jim Cook takes a trip to Wiltshire, to meet the team at High Post GC, a club with ambition as high as the level of beauty it entails.

Last year, Paul Hope, a greenkeeper at High Post Golf Club, won BIGGA’s 2011 photographic competition with a stunning shot of a deer prancing over the course at first light.

After a visit to the club, one of the striking features was how much of an oasis, or even haven, this picturesque Wiltshire course offers for many other types of rare and elusive wildlife as well as deer.

It was a warm day in mid-May when I met with Course Manager, Lachlan Morrison and the team at High Post. Lachlan was keen to speak about the importance of ecology to this club and said: “We’re in the process of sympathetically clearing scrub areas and regenerating our gorse areas. We’ve re-planted gorse in new areas and it’s looking quite impressive, with new plants sprouting through where we cleared. We’ve also exposed a pine tree next to the 6th tee which was previously covered and some holly trees.”

Paul Hope said: “The wildlife is abundant out there as well. Of the birds, we’ve had red kites over the course for the first time in several years and sparrowhawks, kestrels...”

Winning shot for BIGGA’s 2011 photographic competition

John Deere 175
SINCE 1837

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Now on Inside Back Page...
High hopes

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JUNE 2012

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Following the completion of a Strategic Review of BIGGA’s activity and resources the Board of Management have approved a Business Plan designed to ensure the Association is best positioned to support its members over the coming years.

The Plan has at its heart a commitment to building on the excellent work done by the Learning and Development department whilst taking steps to make sure the Association is commercially sustainable.

Both of these aspects are vital as the Association works closely with the rest of the golf industry to promote the profession of greenkeeping and to continue to raise standards.

With the sport being strongly affected by economic pressures it is important that greenkeepers have a membership association that will work at all levels to ensure the importance of course management and maintenance to the future health of golf is recognised.

BIGGA has reached a new stage in its development and with the Business Plan approved the Chief Executive has been tasked with ensuring that the Association has the necessary staff and resources to implement it and achieve its objectives.

A staff consultation period has taken place with full professional advice and two positions have been made redundant.

As a result, after all redeployment options for the individuals affected were considered, Pauline Thompson and Scott MacCallum have left the Association by mutual agreement. Both were employed by the Association for in excess of 17 years and have contributed substantially to the Association’s success.

Their dedication to their roles and to the Association has been essential in the development of their knowledge and expertise and it is with regret that the Association has had to part company with them.

The latest news from around the globe

Rogue Rider Wreaks Havoc for O’Hara

Leven GC Head Greenkeeper and BIGGA Member, Andy O’Hara, was left devastated last month when a motorbike-driving vandal ripped up greens on his course. It could take months to recover.

The damage was caused to the putting surfaces on the 1st and 18th holes at Leven Links Golf Club and further damage continued at the 18th of Seaonie Golf Club.

The damage to the greens is extensive with much of the turf dug out by the motorbike’s tyres. Leven Links has had to carry out repairs to make them suitable for the 500 members of Leven Golfing Society and Leven Thistle Golf Club, who both play on the course.

Mr O’Hara has ruled out fencing off the course despite this being the second time it has been attacked in the space of a month, saying, "We would like to appeal to whoever is doing it to stop. If anybody has any information they get in touch with us, or the police.”

"Fencing the place off is not something we are going to do. We want to continue to enjoy the natural beauty of the place," local Community Inspector Donald Jenks said. "Additional patrols will be operating in the area to deter the nuisance and gather information that will help identify those responsible."
**GI NEWSDESK**

The latest news from around the globe

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**GI**

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**Organisational Changes At BIGGA House**

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Both employed by the Association for in excess of 17 years and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Over the next few weeks we will be recruiting people to fill the following roles: Learning and Development Executive, Commercial Manager, Communications Executive and Assistant Accountant.

Board Chairman, Andrew Mellon explained, “We have examined very closely how we operate to best serve the needs of our members. In doing so, we have spent much time consulting with all our stakeholders before formulating our plans, and of course some difficult decisions have had to be made. This new business plan will enhance our Chief Executive and his team’s ability to focus on developing the delivery of vital member support services, particularly our Learning and Development programme. The Board is totally confident that they will continue to engage the membership through effective and efficient communications.”

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**Braemar Extends Commitment**

Braemar Golf, the international golf services provider, based in the home of golf, St Andrews, Scotland is delighted to announce a new commitment to sustainability across all development and operational projects within the Braemar Golf portfolio.

Selecting the programmes and guidance provided by the Golf Environment Organisation (GEO) as preferred solutions, Braemar has asked that all clients embark on the GEO OnCourse™ programme to achieve the international recognised GEO Certified™ status.

Additionally, Braemar will help new development projects integrate sustainability into planning, design and construction as well as incorporating new guidance developed by GEO in collaboration with a number of golf industry groups.

Braemar Golf has for many years been implementing environmental best practice as part of their standard operating procedures but recognise the benefits of participating in such recognised and worthwhile programmes.

GEO Project Director for Braemar Golf comments, “Our project teams have driven this through their efforts and desire to manage their facilities in an environmentally sustainable manner.”

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**Farewell from Peter Larter, BIGGA Regional Administrator**

At the end of May 2012 I retire from the post of Regional Administrator for the Midland and Northern Regions of BIGGA.

In September 1996, after 35 years in the RAF, I took over the post of Regional Administrator for the Midland Region of BIGGA and, a few years later became full-time, also looking after the Northern Region.

During my 16 years with BIGGA I have worked with many members, BIGGA HQ staff and the Trade, and I am very grateful for the support and friendship I received from all I came into contact with.

I have had the great experience of working at HTMRE, and in recent years I have had the honour to work with our members at The Open Championship.

As I head into retirement I will miss the friends I have made during my time with BIGGA. However, I will be fully occupied with grand children, rugby, golf and, like Peter Boyd, my wife’s “to do” list.

I wish BIGGA and all I have known throughout the last 16 years success in the future.

Good Luck,

Peter J Larter

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**BIGGA Appoints New Regional Administrators**

The Association is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Regional Administrators.

John Young

Following the retirement of Peter Boyd, John Young has been appointed on a full-time contract to cover Scotland.

John is a skilled administrator with a strong track record in event organisation and has been heavily involved with the management of Grangouk Golf Club, where he is a full member with a handicap of 13.

John will commence his post on Monday 28th May 2012.

Sandra Raper

Due to the retirement of Peter Larter, Sandra Raper has been appointed on a full-time contract to cover Northern and Midlands Region.

Sandra was previously employed by BIGGA in an administrative role and has good experience in many aspects of Association Management.

During her time with the Association she developed an excellent rapport with members and suppliers alike.

Sandra will commence her post on Monday 18th June 2012.
At the ground of West Ham United, recently reinstated to the FA Premier League, Challengers, The Kent team, contested victory at the hands of last year’s winners, the Essex Section, in this challenge football match organised by Lely UK (Toro). A keenly contested match played in good spirit finished 3-2 to Kent. On a damp but perfect pitch Essex made a bright start with Ben Scrivener firing just over the bar from long range and two minutes later had a shot well saved by Rob Holland in the Kent goal.

After some good football and missed shots by both teams Mark Todd beat the Essex offside trap on the left passing to Lee Austin to cross a great ball beating keeper Holland in the Kent goal. Final Score Essex 2 v Kent 3. After the match players and supporters enjoyed the hospitality in the Billy Bonds Lounge where Larry Pearman of Lely presented the Trophy to the winning Kent Team and Roger Lupton from Toro Iriwatt presented the Man of the Match Trophy to Ben Adams from the London Club.

Special thanks to Larry Pearman helped by Richard Freeman for making all the arrangements and organizing the day as well. All commented on the immaculate condition of the pitch, after a long hard season. Hopefully this event will take place again next year with more Sections being involved.

EVELYN ON THE CONSERVATORY OF GARDENS

Rod Burke believes that the eportfolio recording option is “an opportunity to expand our provision beyond our traditional methods of delivering greenkeeper and groundsmanship education and training.”

Elmwood College, Cupar, Scotland, through a licence agreement with The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), is extending its greenkeeper training provision by embracing the latest eportfolio technology.

The college will be offering students the opportunity to use the eportfolio recording option and this will include the highly acclaimed GTC Greenkeeping Training Manual.

Rick Bond, Head of Faculty, Golf, Land & Environment at the college says, “the eportfolio provision is already available for students studying for a management qualification and we see the new additions supporting learners such as apprentices and students across the world looking to be part of the Elmwood College Sports Turf Learning experience.”

Carol Borthwick, Director of Golf and International Affairs at Elmwood adds, “the college has for many years been involved with the GTC and we see this moment as an opportunity to expand our provision beyond our traditional methods of delivering greenkeeper and groundsmanship education and training.”

David Golding, of the GTC, says, “Elmwood College, as a GTC Quality Assured Centre, has for many years been a major provider of sports turf education, training provision offering the range of qualifications from work based to Higher Education. The license agreement between Elmwood College and the GTC will certainly enhance the technology now available to allow employers and students to consider if this option may be better suited to their needs, while the traditional delivery of courses will still be available.”

Elmwood College can be contacted via email mclarke@elmwood.ac.uk or phone: 01334 658996

Calculate your savings from the Ultimate Fairway Programme

Greenkeepers and golf club managers can now find out exactly how much money they could save on their course from taking advantage of the Primo Maxx Ultimate Fairway Programme. A new interactive calculator on the GreenCast website enables them to enter their current costs and routine of fairway mowing, and gives an instant answer on the cost savings.

A recent independent survey of fairways on a range of golf courses revealed the average area was 14 hectares - taking just under 11 hours for each cut. For courses cutting fairways three times a week, the use of Primo Maxx to eliminate one cut per week through the season would see a cost saving of over £3650 per year.

The calculation takes into account details of the individual club’s costs including mower operator and mechanic’s wages, machinery repairs, fuel and depreciation, along with their replacement policy for fairway mowers. Fuel costs at the time of the survey averaged 74p/litre, but a 20% rise in the intervening time now equates to an additional £51 a year saving from Primo Maxx use on the fairways alone, reports Syngenta Business Manager, Rod Burke. “We did notice a thicker sward and better water utilisation during the dry periods, which I can only attribute to the Primo Maxx,” Rod Burke believes that the turf quality enhancements that greenkeepers have seen will be equally as important as the cost savings. “Our survey identified that having their ball sit proud on a consistent fairway surface was the single most important factor that they want.”

The winner came from a powerful shot from just inside the box by the great ‘Zaffa’ to make the Score 3-2 to the Kent Section. In the end after a hard fought and thoroughly entertaining game the Kent team held on to win the game.

Final Score Essex 2 v Kent 3. After the match players and supporters enjoyed the hospitality in the Billy Bonds Lounge where Larry Pearman of Lely presented the Trophy to the winning Kent Team and Roger Lupton from Toro Iriwatt awarded the Man of the Match Trophy to Ben Adams from the London Club.

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Elmwood College, Cupar, Scotland, through a licence agreement with The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), is extending its greenkeeper training provision by embracing the latest eportfolio technology.

The college will be offering students the opportunity to use the eportfolio recording option and this will include the highly acclaimed GTC Greenkeeping Training Manual.

Rick Bond, Head of Faculty, Golf, Land & Environment at the college says, “the eportfolio provision is already available for students studying for a management qualification and we see the new additions supporting learners such as apprentices and students across the world looking to be part of the Elmwood College Sports Turf Learning experience.”

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8
score the first goal for Kent. Shortly after
Dan Crow and allowing Wayne Syres to
Austin to cross a great ball beating keeper
shots by both teams Mark Todd beat the
just over the bar from long range and two
a bright start with Ben Scrivener firing
spirit finished 3-2 to Kent.

At the ground of West Ham United, recently
reinstated to the FA Premier League,
through the season would see

The winner came from a powerful shot
from just inside the box by the great
'Zaffa' to make the Score 3-2 to the Kent
Section. In the end after a hard fought and
thoroughly entertaining game the Kent
team held on to win the game.

Final Score Essex 2 v Kent 3. After
the match players and supporters enjoyed
the hospitality in the Billy Bonds Lounge
where Larry Pearman of Lely presented
the Trophy to the winning Kent Team and
Roger Lupton from Toro Irrigation awarded
the Man of the Match Trophy to Ben
Adams from the London Club.

Special thanks to Larry Pearman helped
by Richard Freeman for making all the
arrangements and organising the day as
well. All commented on the immaculate
condition of the pitch, after a long hard
season. Hopefully this event will take place
again next year with more Sections being
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Elmwood Go Digital

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There are exciting times ahead for London Golf Club as it announced recently, that, together with its joint venture partner, The European Tour, has submitted plans to local authorities for the construction of a new European Tour Performance Institute (ETPI) complete with driving range and an innovative 9-hole Academy course.

Alongside the existing 36-holes of championship golf and 130-bedroom 5-star hotel and spa, for which planning permission has already been granted, these significant developments encapsulate the club’s vision of becoming a world-class destination primed for hosting major golfing events.

The state-of-the-art European Tour Performance Institute (ETPI) complete with a fully-covered driving range and inventive short-game facility, will be the first of its kind in the UK and promises to raise the bar in golf coaching and sports science.

Commenting on the significant developments on the horizon, London Golf Club’s General Manager, Austen Gravestock said, “I firmly believe the new ETPI, Academy and 9-hole golf course will elevate our status on the International golfing arena.”

David MacLaren, Director of Property and Venue Development at The European Tour, added: “I am confident that the creation of a state of the art practice and learning facility at London Golf Club will be of great benefit to club members, visitors and the wider community.”

Designed to complement the club’s Heritage and International courses, that have both hosted high-profile professional tournaments and events, including The European Open in 2008 & 2009 and Golf Live, the new 9-hole academy golf course will be located alongside the ETPI on the eastern side of South Ash Road.

With the plans now submitted to the local authority for their consideration, Jeremy Slessor, European Golf Design’s Managing Director, said: “It’s been a fascinating start to the project - combining the evolutionary approach to performance and training of the ETPI with an Academy facility that will support, without replicating, the two existing courses at The London Club. Trying to marry the requirements of the European Tour with the need to provide a bespoke training course, concentrating on game improvement, has been challenging - but we feel confident that this is what we’ve achieved. Added to this has been the desire to restore the terrain from an open agricultural field to one with a diverse environment, supporting diverse habitats resulting in a richer ecological landscape.”
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UK’s 1st European Tour Performance Institute with 9-Hole Academy Course

The Primo Maxx Ultimate Fairway Programme offers the unrivalled opportunity to enhance the condition of your course - and make big cost savings.

Speak to your local supplier or advisor for more information about this fantastic new offer.
We are delighted to announce that once again the 2012 BIGGA return to sponsor the 2012 Charterhouse and Kubota JUNE 2012 GI NEWSDESK.

UKGCOA Publish Golf Facility Report

The UK Golf Course Owners Association (UKGCOA) has released its first Golf Facility Benchmarking Report, which shows member clubs have seen a dramatic rise in rounds played compared to the national average of just 8%. To download the report, please visit www.ukgcoa.com.

Executive Summary (ii)

The report – conducted by Sports Marketing Surveys Inc. – shows that UKGCOA members have seen a 20% increase in rounds played compared to the national average. The report includes an analysis of green fees, with a mix of weekday and weekend rates, and a comparison with other golf courses.

Changes in Average Green Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>CHANGES in AVERAGE GREEN FEES</th>
<th>CHANGES in AVERAGE GREEN FEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate / Society</td>
<td>£35.05</td>
<td>£31.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
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<td>£31.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
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John Deere 175 Years of Progress

From the world’s first self-scouring steel plough in 1877 to the world’s largest manufacturer of agricultural and forestry equipment, and a leading manufacturer of turf and construction machinery – John Deere the company celebrates 175 years of progress worldwide in 2012.

John Deere, the man, moved from his home in Vermont to set up a small blacksmith shop in Grand Detour, Illinois; his invention revolutionised agriculture and made farming in the tough soil of the US Midwest a productive and profitable venture.

A decade later he moved the enterprise to Moline, where the company that bears his name still has its corporate headquarters today.

Close by the ‘Rusty Palace’ as the headquarters is known because of its innovative steel frame design, is TPC Deere Run, an annual winning championship golf course that is open to the public.

John Deere Classic tournament has been held here annually since 2000, the week before our Open Championship.

It made its debut on the PGA Tour as the Quad Cities Open in 1972, since when the event has contributed $43 million to charity. John Deere is the official golf course equipment, leasing and landscaping supplier to the PGA Tour.

In addition to the 175th anniversary, John Deere can look back upon almost 50 years of history as a supplier of turf equipment. Production of the company’s first lawn and garden tractor began at Horicon, Wisconsin in 1963, when the factory also manufactured its first utility tractor, the 110 model, built 1000 units of the 110 model, while John Deere’s golf business started in 1967. John Deere’s five millionth lawn tractor, from the X700 Ultimate diesel range, rolled off the assembly line at Horicon in 2010, when the factory also manufactured its 500,000th Gator utility vehicle, following this popular machine’s introduction in 1993.

The same factory produced a line of snowblowers from 1971 to 1983, these were promoted with the new slogan ‘Nothing runs like a Deere’, which has lasted a lot longer than that product line!

In 2011, John Deere invested more than US$1.2 billion in worldwide research and development programmes, equivalent to nearly $5 million dollars every working day.

As part of this ongoing new product investment, John Deere pioneered the use of hybrid electric technology on golf course mowers with the introduction of its 2000E greens mower in 2004, and then its fairway mower range in 2009.

A full range of walk-behind and ride-on greens and fairway mowers, including the industry’s broadest single brand range of hybrid machines, are now built at the company’s turf and utility factory at Fuquay-Varina in North Carolina.

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‘John Deere instilled four core values in his company,’ says Samuel J. Allen, chairman and chief executive officer of Deere & Company – only the company’s ninth CEO in its 175-year history.

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CHANGES in AVERAGE GREEN FEES

Facilities Year on Year

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Visitors</th>
<th>Participants Participants</th>
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<th>Corporate / Society</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 Avg Green Fee</td>
<td>£35.05</td>
<td>£31.82</td>
<td>£35.05</td>
<td>£31.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
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Sowing the seeds

Jayne Leyland recently joined Rigby Taylor as Seed Research and Development Manager. Jim Cook took the opportunity to be the first to throw a few questions her way:

What attracted you to Rigby Taylor?

It is a very exciting opportunity to take trial systems and development of mixtures to another level.

What will the trials involve?

The trials will be sowing out grasses and then treating them with identified management programmes and products to find solutions to whatever the constraints of that site or maintenance regime is. Each trial will be different according to the location.

Where is the first trial you will be involved with since joining Rigby Taylor?

It will be at Furness Golf Club, in Cumbria, and is an environmental stress trial. This is the first sowing of this particular programme.

How are new seeds bred?

Mainly through crossings of existing cultivars with new grasses which are gathered in the wild by the plant breeders. These are then cross-bred to search for wild by the plant breeders. These are then cross-bred to search for these new characteristics. The future is a combination of new cultivars which are coming through breeding programmes with improved characteristics. New sub-species or species which have got significantly different characteristics from cultivars within that same species. Also adaptations of species with unique characteristics, for example, temperature tolerance or creeping growth habit. It’s a combination of the breeding programmes producing the right material and then the good work of greenkeepers being able to get the product in their armoury to get the maximum out of it.

What makes a good quality grass seed?

Several things. The characteristics of individual cultivars, the synergy of the mixture, the quality of purity and germination of seed mixtures and most importantly choosing the right mixture for the intended purpose. There are some amazing developments now in grasses and with Rigby Taylor there is the ESP treatment on the seed. What is very important is many greenkeepers is speed of establishment, so you need good quality seed with high viability and fast establishment capability.

What should a greenkeeper think about when buying grass seed?

They should think about individual characteristics that they might require, for example specific disease tolerance or cold weather or drought tolerance. What is as important as individual cultivar characteristics is actually how the seed mixture has been formulated and put together, so there isn’t too much competition between the cultivars in three and one doesn’t dominate the other. So the actual mixture synergy is extremely important.

Is there a correct way to store grass seed?

It should be stored in a cool, dry place and also be in a secure container to avoid attack from vermin.

What is the future with regards grass seed?

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Drought The Situation Now

Sophie Tolchard provides an update on the recent Drought Order which swept parts of the UK last month.

The trials will be sowing out grasses and then treating them with identified management programmes and products to find solutions to whatever the constraints of that site or maintenance regime is. Each trial will be different according to the location.

On 5 April a Temporary Use Ban (Hosepipe Ban) came into force in parts of the country covered by seven water companies in the south of England and East Anglia.

When two and a half times the normal amount of rain fell in April and frequent showers continued throughout May, many were left wondering why we are still in a drought.

After the driest two years since records began, groundwater, which feeds the flows of rivers throughout the year and is our most important source of water, remains exceptionally low.

On 29 April, Thames Water announced that it was to exempt golf clubs under its jurisdiction from two major aspects of the hosepipe ban. Golf clubs that have water supplied by Thames Water can now use permanent sprinkler systems underneath their greens.

The announcement, which is similar to one made recently by Anglian Water... should clear up some of the confusion surrounding conflicting advice given to clubs over the past few weeks,” writes Thames Water.

Nonetheless, some clubs were left confused by the conflicting advice that they received from their water board.

“For example, some GCMA members report that their supplier has determined a total ban for the use of sprinkler systems. Others have received less penal reactions when they have approached them, including a scale of allowances for special events and a fixed number of cubic meters to be used per day. And some have been told you’re a business, so carry on as normal,” said Keith Lloyd, CEO of the GCMA.

Some relief followed Caroline Spelman’s announcement on 11 May that the Environment Agency had decided to move 19 counties out of drought status, including South Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Bristol, parts of Gloucestershire, parts of Hampshire, most of Wiltshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

Although this indicates that there’s no threat to the public water supply in these areas this summer, clubs are still subject to some environmental pressures and could move back in to drought if there is another prolonged dry period.

DEFRA is working closely with the Environment Agency to continuously monitor and review the situation.

There was better news for other users of turf this month when all seven water companies announced a 28-day exemption for the establishment of newly laid turf, when laid by a landscaper or gardening business, from the 21 May 2012.

Landscape, turf and gardeners facing an identified need and purpose. There are constraints of that site or maintenance regime is. Each trial will be different according to the location.
June has arrived and hopefully the sunshine will finally appear after what can only be described as a monsoon May! I know how you greenkeepers like the rain – but even you must have had enough of it by now!

The Open Support Team

Rachael is working hard on the organisation of The Open Support Team. Coordinating a team of 65 greenkeepers and additional support staff is no mean feat, but she’s taking it all in her stride as usual.

The BIGGA staff will be on site at Royal Lytham & St Anne’s from Monday 16 June, with the support team beginning to arrive on Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 in preparation for the tournament getting underway on Thursday 19 July.

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

The nominations are in for the 24th Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award with local interviews commencing on Wednesday 27 June in St Albans.

We have 29 candidates for this year’s Award and from that we will be selecting six to go forward to the National Final at BIGGA House in September.

BIGGA Seminars at SALTEx

BIGGA have once again been invited by the ITO to present a series of seminar sessions during the SALTEx exhibition being held at Windsor Racecourse from 4 – 6 September. The three seminars will take place on Wednesday 5 September and will feature presentations from Paul Lowe from Symfony and David Cole from Loch Lomond Golf Club (the third session is yet to be confirmed).

If you are heading to SALTEx, be sure to attend these seminars and claim CPD credits for attending. BIGGA representatives will also be on hand on Stand E33 to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you there!

Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2013

Planning is almost complete for the Turf Managers’ Conference 2013. Part of the Continue to Learn education programme, the Turf Managers’ Conference will take place on Monday 21 January 2013 in Harrogate. To date, several speakers have been confirmed including Dr Thomas Nikolai ‘The Doctor of Green Speed’ from Michigan State University, David Bancroft-Turner from 3D Training and Development, a specialist in organisational politics, Dr Kate Entwistle, Turf Pathologist from the Turf Disease Centre and Lorna Sheldon from CWT International a specialist in communication and presentation skills.

The Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week education programme will feature four packed days of education and will run from Sunday 20 January to Wednesday 23 January 2013. Further details on the Turf Managers’ Conference, workshops and seminars will be available soon – watch this space and the BIGGA website for further information.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships

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As a BIGGA member you will receive a wide range of benefits. A typical membership package may include:

- Copies of Greenkeeper International and other publications.
- Full access to the BIGGA website.
- Membership of a local section/networking.
- The opportunity to attend events nationwide.
- Access to a variety of advice on greenkeeping issues.
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- Access to a 24/7 legal helpline.
- A personal accident insurance cover.
- Membership packages may vary according to the grade of membership held.

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You may just wish to attend sector golf events and network with fellow members/greenkeepers.

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Membership pays for itself many times over, not only in monetary terms but also in the incalculable effect it has in helping you develop into a more skilled greenkeeper or manager capable of making a greater impact within your golf club.

Join today, renew your membership today or encourage a colleague to do the same.

Contact us in the membership department at membership@bigga.co.uk or by telephone 01347 833800 option 1 – more sand, Honeyman... more sand

memories of a greenkeeper! In his own words by Walter Woods

Walter Woods BEM is the most recognised greenkeeper in the world and has been an opportunist to recount his reminiscences and thoughts to the profession both young and old. The book touches on Walter’s experiences of taking part in any number of tournaments that he prepared the course for, the book also includes much of his own greenkeeping philosophy and many of his own anecdotes covering the period.

The book is available online via the BIGGA website - Members Price -£5.00 to cover post and packing

(To get your copy of Members Price you must first log in to the Members Area of the BIGGA Website.)

Non-Members Price – £7.50 to include post and packing (For all enquiries outside of the UK please contact the Membership Department directly for cost).

Go to www.bigga.org.uk/ events/event29/ for full details, remember to sign to get your copy at members price.

BIGGA Scottish National Tournament

2013. June 20th at Ratho Park Golf Club, Edinburgh

Good luck to all who are taking part. If you would still like to book your place, please contact Rachael Duffy at BIGGA House on 01347 833800.

Entry fee £25 Apprentice fee £12 which includes coffee/tea, filled roll on arrival, plus evening meal, sweet and prizes.
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BIGGA Open Support Tour 2011

Golf GI

Golf GI

Golf GI

Golf GI

Contact Details

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, with an update on education issues

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Honeymoon....

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ASKHAM BRYAN TEAM UP WITH RJ

Ipswich, Suffolk (May 1, 2012) Askham Bryan College, the centre of educational excellence for land-based careers, has signed a rolling 12-month preferred supplier agreement with Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, the Ipswich-based turf maintenance equipment manufacturer.

Askham Bryan has been at the forefront of training in sports turf maintenance for over thirty years, offering various routes of learning from Level 2 and 3 Apprenticeships through to Foundation Degree. From September 2012, this will be enhanced with a full time Level 2 course in sports turf maintenance.

Ransomes Jacobsen and their local dealer, Golf and Turf Machinery, have formally signed this agreement to enable their college’s full time and work-based sports turf apprentices to have access to modern and innovative turf maintenance equipment.

The agreement will see Ransomes Jacobsen providing demonstration equipment to the college, through Golf and Turf Machinery, coupled with regular lectures on a range of turf maintenance subjects. The college will also provide Ransomes-Jacobsen with lecturers for road shows and demo days.

As part of the agreement the Level 2 and Level 3 Sports Turf Apprenticeship programs will be sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen; with a trophy awarded to the best apprentice each year.

Mega Deal for Aixam Mega, France

Ransomes-Jacobsen has also been appointed the sole UK importer for the Mega Professional range of road标题化gated multi-purpose utility vehicles.

The agreement, signed recently between Aixam Mega, based in southern France, and RJ, will see them marketing the new vehicles to its new Club Car fleet.

Rupert Price, sales director at RJ said, “We appointed the sole UK importer for Aixam Mega, based in southern France, and latterly with their all-electric ride-on E-Z-GO and Cushman brands, their Massey Ferguson 3615 tractor, their E-Z-GO and Cushman brands, and Multitruck 600 low emission diesel truck.

Mega multi-purpose utility vehicles can be easily adapted for a multitude of applications including green spaces. The Aixam Mega is an electric vehicle with a tight turning circle and compact external dimensions, making it highly manoeuvrable. Robustly constructed with excellent carrying capacity, an ability to tow and dynamic performance, it meets the needs of the most demanding users.

Like all Mega vehicles, the e-Worker is designed for the needs of the most demanding users. The Mega e-Worker looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership as we increase the level of business, going forward.”

Lee Sayers Picks a Terra Spike

MidKent GC has chosen a Wiedenmann Terra Spike for the third successive time to carry out all its aeration requirements at the Gravesend course. Course Manager, Lee Sayers, a BIGGA member, said he had no hesitation in choosing a Terra Spike, his only dilemma was which model to select for the club’s free draining chalk-based turf.

The team at MidKent had to weigh up whether to opt for a slightly faster XD machine that went down to 275 mm or whether they needed the capacity to spike to 400 mm.

“Our Massey Ferguson 3615 tractor has particularly wide rear tyres and in fairness without those, there are some locations where it would be quite restrictive to work. I’m really happy with the Wiedenmann. The fact that we’ve bought our third machine says more than anything else.

If we’d had any concerns or problems then you might have bought a second one but you wouldn’t have bought a third one!”

LOWER COST ROTARY MOWER FOR LOWER HORSEPOWER TRACTORS

Manufacturer of precision, fail and rotary mowers, Trimax Mowing Systems, has launched a budget-priced rotary mower, suitable for use with compact tractors from 20hp to 60hp. Fitted with full with rollers front and rear for an attractive striped finish without scalping, the Trimax Striker rotary mower comes in cutting widths of 1.46m and 1.94m, known as Model 190 and Model 140 respectively.

The Trimax Striker is purpose-designed for non-contract owner-operated operations such as schools and colleges, golf courses, smallholdings, estates and residential properties with larger areas of regularly cut grass to maintain by compact tractor. The use of multiple cutting spindles helps ensure a cleaner cut with even grass distribution across the machine’s entire width, enhanced by the fitting as standard of Trimax’s laser-guided cutting blade system.

Costa Fleet

Costa Del Mar, a Spanish resort, has invested in a new fleet of 70 Club Car vehicles to help its members, customers and staff manoeuvre its expansive 45-hole complex that covers 170 acres.

Costa Dorada’s newest golf course, which opened in Southern Catalonia in June 2008, undertook careful market analysis of the leading golf car providers before selecting Club Car as its chosen supplier.

Lucine Golf Club, a Proven Golf-managed resort, has invested in a new fleet of 70 Club Car vehicles to help its members, customers and staff manoeuvre the college, through Golf and Turf Machinery, coupled with regular lectures on a range of turf maintenance subjects. The college will also provide Ransomes-Jacobsen with lecturers for road shows and demo days. As part of the agreement the Level 2 and Level 3 Sports Turf Apprenticeship programs will be sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen; with a trophy awarded to the best apprentice each year.

What’s your number?

Name: Craig Nickless
Company: ERIS Developments Ltd
Position: Business Development Manager
How long have you been in the industry? I have been in the industry since 1997
How did you get into it? Even as a youngster I have always had an interest in wildlife, so it was a natural progression for me to enter into this industry. The Japanese Knotweed treatments came to us through a friend, who is a chemist. I had developed a unique treatment to eradicate Japanese Knotweed, in one growing season, instead of the usual 4-7 year method, and was too good an opportunity to miss.

What other jobs have you done? I have worked for other pest control and wildlife management companies and also spent a number of years in sales working for a company in Sweden.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry? I have seen a number of changes since I began in the industry, from various European directorates, taking away some of our best known products for safety issues or we are told, to advances in technology which is a major bonus for us.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I help run a youth cafe which takes alot of my time up and something I have committed to for the next few years. It’s essential we communicate with the youth in our areas - we live in a village in Buckinghamshire which has exactly the same issues as any town or city.

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry? Firstly our clients, who quite rightly so demand the best service possible. Secondly, our suppliers - their technical backup make us one of the leading wildlife management and Japanese knotweed eradication companies in the UK.

What do you consider to be your lucky number? I don’t really believe in lucky numbers but since 2009 we have been blessed with some amazing work so I suppose it must be 2009-10-11-12-13wards

Pick a number 12!

Craig has picked Andrew Pickup of Shoberton Forestry
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At the recent signing of the agreement, Rupert Price, sales director at RJ said, “We are delighted to be signing this agreement with Aixam Mega. We have taken on the existing Mega dealer network will be actively looking to establish more touch points across the UK.”

Gilles Giry, signatory to the agreement for Aixam Mega added, “RJ has an excellent understanding of the light industrial sector and extensive knowledge of electric vehicles through their E-Z-Go and Cushman brands, and I am delighted with their all-electric ride-on mower under the Trimax Mowing Systems, has launched a budget-priced rotary mower, suitable for use with compact tractors from 20hp to 60hp. Fitted with all with rollers front and rear for an attractive striped finish without scalping, the Trimax Striker rotary mower comes in cutting widths of 1.66m and 1.94m, known as Model 190 and Model 190 respectively.

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The second of our three part feature, offering an insight into the preparations for the ISPS Handa PGA Seniors Championship at Slaley Hall, continues this month, as Nathaniel Sylvester of the PGA, meets up with Course Manager, Steve Cram.

Preparing Slaley Hall

If Steve Cram ever hits the karaoke machine he could be forgiven for belting out the hit, ‘Why Does it Always Rain on me?’ by Scottish band Travis. But the ever-cheerful course manager at De Vere Slaley Hall is not the kind to let the elements cloud his sunny disposition – even if torrential rain, the odd snow flurry and frost have conspired to disrupt preparations for June’s ISPS Handa PGA Seniors Championship.

Dealing with the micro-climate that periodically engulfs the Northumberland resort is all part of the job for Cram who has been employed for a total of 22 years at the European Senior Tour venue, with a four year stint at Close House sandwiched in between. Like most of the UK, heavy rain through April and May has been an unwelcome guest, Cram describes as simply ‘unbelievable’ with bouts of snow and frost complicating matters further. “In April we had 186mm and from May 1 to May 17 we’ve had 100 mm,” says Cram in a rare quiet moment in his hectic schedule. “The net result is that growth is slower than usual – the cool rain and temperatures keeps the ground cold, which has slowed the growth down. “As a result of the rain, the focus is on trying to pick a gap in the weather where feed and fertiliser has time to get under the plant and not get washed away.”

“We have had so much rain that it’s a case of dodging the showers and trying to get a two or three hour window to get as many fairways done, spayed and coloured up as possible.”

With the 72-hole tournament, which features an array of golfing stalwarts, such as Ryder Cup captains Sam Torrance and Mark James, set to tee off on June 7, Cram and his team begin ramping up operations in May with the verti-cutting helps take out the lateral growth and helps the sand bed into the grass sward,” explains Cram. “It is the equivalent of using a scarifier that rakes out the dead grass – only a lighter version.”

The logistics of the top sand dressings of the Haunting Course’s 18 greens and one practice green sees more than 50 tonnes laid down 30 tonnes the first time round and 22 tonnes at the next sanding. Despite the rain, Slaley Hall’s greens drain quite well, however it is the cool temperatures that can be an issue for Cram when top dressing is being undertaken. “The last thing you want is greens to disappear so you can still see it. You also have to be careful that you don’t smother the green. “Last year we were top dressing every week, but this year we have to do it every other week.”

Like any master of his art, Cram has an array of tools at his disposal and Primo Maxx is a firm favourite. For the technically minded, its active ingredient is Triexapac-ethyl, which inhibits gibberellin acid biosynthesis, resulting in decreased cellular elongation and internode length.

In short, vertical growth is slowed and energy is redirected to lateral stems and below ground plant parts. The redirected energy is used to produce increased food reserves, larger root systems, and increased lateral stem development for thicker healthier turf. Because the grass absorbs Primo Maxx quickly, it is rain-fast in 3 hours. “The last thing you want is greens to be stimping at 10 feet in the morning and seven feet in the evening, so it is very much a balanced approach with fertilisers to avoid too much upward growth.”

Cram manages his team with a combination of military precision, expert knowledge and unerring instinct built up over his long career. “I’m not that technical, but I do have a few tricks around that help you out and Primo Maxx is one of those,” is his modest self-assessment.

One of his undoubted strengths is the team spirit and camaraderie his engineers among his staff of 10 full timers, which bumps up to 12 with summer casuals and a further four to six greenkeepers from other De Vere venues who join Slaley in the build-up to the PGA Seniors. A key approach is giving his team ownership of a particular part of the course – be it fairways or greens. “From May they will all be on the job they are doing during the tournament. “There are a couple of reasons, firstly I give them ownership, it is their little bit of the course and that is their responsibility. “If someone has got the job of doing lines, creating that diamond effect, then it’s their responsibility. I purposely do it because it gives them ownership. “If I am not happy they will know it, but invariably they will get it right through pride. The team really
Prepping Slaley Hall

If Steve Cram ever hits the karaoke machine he could be forgiven for belting out the hit, ‘Why Does It Always Rain on me?’ by Scottish band Travis. But the ever-cheerful course manager at De Vere Slaley Hall is not the kind to let the elements cloud his sunny disposition – even if torrential rain, the odd snow flurry and frost have conspired to disrupt preparations for June’s ISPS Handa PGA Seniors Championship.

Dealing with the micro-climate that periodically engulfs the Northumberland resort is all part of the job for Cram who has been employed for a total of 22 years at the European Senior Tour venue, with a four year stint at Close House sandwiched in between.

Like most of the UK, heavy rain through April and May has been an unwelcome guest, Cram describes it as simply ‘unbelievable’ with bouts of snow and frost complicating matters further.

“In April we had 186mm and from May 1 to May 17 we’ve had 100 mm,” says Cram in a rare quiet moment in his hectic schedule.

“The net result is that growth is slower than usual – the cool rain and temperatures keep the ground cold, which has slowed the growth down.”

“As a result of the rain, the focus is on trying to pick a gap in the weather where feed and fertiliser has time to get under the plant and not get washed away.”

“We have had so much rain that it’s a case of dodging the showers and trying to get a two or three hour window to get as many fairways done, spayed and coloured up as possible.”

With the 72-hole tournament, which features an array of golfing stalwarts, such as Ryder Cup captains Sam Torrance and Mark James, set to tee off on June 7, Cram and his team begin ramping up operations in May with the verticutting helps take out the lateral growth and helps the sand bed into the grass sway,” explains Cram.

“It is the equivalent of using a scarifier that rakes out the dead grass – only a lighter version.”

The logistics of the top sand dressings of the Hunting Course’s 18 greens and one practice green sees more than 50 tonnes laid down 30 tonnes the first time round and 22 tonnes at the next sanding.

Despite the rain, Slaley Hall’s greens drain quite well, however it is the cool temperatures that can be an issue for Cram when top dressing is being undertaken.

“It takes a lot of time for the sand to disappear so you can still see it. You also have to be careful that you don’t smother the green.”

“Last year we were top dressing every week, but this year we have to do it every other week.”

Like any master of his art, Cram has an array of tools at his disposal and Primo Maxx is a firm favourite. For the technically minded, its active ingredient is Trinexapac-ethyl, which inhibits gibberellic acid biosynthesis, resulting in decreased cellular elongation and internode length.

“In short, vertical growth is slowed and energy is redirected to lateral stems and below ground plant parts.”

The redirected energy is used to produce increased food reserves, bigger root systems, and increased lateral stem development for thicker healthier turf. Because the grass absorbs Primo Maxx quickly, it is rain-fast in 3 hours. It all helps avoid growth during the tournament which is the big no-go.

“The last thing you want is greens to be stimping at 10 feet in the morning and seven feet in the evening, so it is very much a balanced approach with fertilisers to avoid too much upward growth.”

Cram manages his team with a combination of military precision, expert knowledge and unerring instinct built up over his long career.

“I’m not that technical, but there are a few tricks around that help you out and Primo Maxx is one of those,” is his modest self-assessment.

One of his undoubted strengths is the team spirit and camaraderie the engineers among his staff of 10 full timers, which bumps up to 12 with summer casuals and a further four to six greenkeepers from other De Vere venues who join Slaley in the build-up to the PGA Seniors.

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responds and I think they appreciate it and get into it. “This is not just my golf course, it’s theirs too, and by doing it this way they feel part of the tournament, so when the tournament starts they can go out and tell family and friends - I did that, or I look after that.”

Another reason for job allocation is that Cram has to know down to the last minute how long it is going to take to carry out the various tasks of fairway and green cutting during the event itself.

“On Thursday and Friday there are two tee starts, so we have to be in and out without disturbing the players. For example, you can’t cut the 18th when they are teeing off the 10th, which is so close.

“We know exactly how long it takes as we time it in the build-up and know how long it is going to take to get them away before the players arrive.

“But the biggest challenge is the eve of the tournament pro-ams on Wednesday with shotgun start at 8 and then in the afternoon. We have to have all the course cut by 8 in the morning then go back out and cut the greens and do the divots after the afternoon.

“Wednesday is a long day - probably a 4.30am start and 10pm finish.”

By mid-May they are a couple of weeks behind schedule in terms of growth, but Cram is not panicking.

“With two or three days of warm weather we should be back to where we want although ideally I would rather be a couple of weeks ahead.

“The greens are okay but the fairways are just a little bit behind.

“You get used to the climate and we factor that in with our fertiliser regimes, using preferred suppliers, Sheriffs Amenity and Everris, liquid feeds and fertilisers.”

If dodging the elements isn’t enough of a challenge, Cram also has to juggle the commercial demands of a busy course that is open to the public up until the Saturday before the tournament.

“The course is not closed until 4pm on Saturday and practice starts on Sunday so we have to work around that,” says Cram.

“We go in ahead of general play. The biggest problem is divots, and four times before the tournament we have a team of 25 volunteers that divot the fairways as we build up to the tournament. At 4pm on the Saturday before the tournament we will divot and rake all the bunkers.”

“The ultimate test for Cram and his team though will be the players’ reaction and they can be pretty demanding taskmasters in their expectations.

“The greens are the most important thing to the guys, particularly the speed. The guys expect it stimping at least 10 feet. They expect it to run smoothly, but not snakey where there is movement.

“In terms of the fairways we cut to 10mm, a lot tighter than for regular play and the same for the tee boxes.

“For bunkers tour players want a maximum of two-and-a-half inches which is quite firm. They don’t like it to plug, so want a firm lie.

“We also have to work with the PGA tournament staff for course set up as they mark-up the golf courses. This involves a lot of strimming because we have a lot of ditches and water.”

“It’s only when the final putt is drained on the Sunday that Cram and his team can finally relax and enjoy a well-deserved beer and reflect on their efforts.

“It’s great to sit down and enjoy a beer because a great camaraderie has built up between the staff and hopefully everybody has had a good tournament.

“The only downside is the Monday and Tuesday when you feel a bit down because you have been running flat out on adrenaline and the atmosphere of the tournament.

“But there is not too much time to dwell on that because there are still the regular customers to prepare for and you have to pick up and get on with it,hopefully though, without any rain!”

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“Slaley Hall, in all its splendour, on a glorious day is an ideal setting for golf course photography Images supplied by Professional Sports and The PGA

“The greens are most important, particularly the speed. The guys expect it stimping at least 10 feet. They expect it to run smoothly, but not snakey where there is movement”
The day after I had won the Toro Student Greenskeeper of the Year award I was sat on the train on the way home with a big smile on my face.

It's a huge achievement and it is true that all the hard work had paid off and that a personal dream had come true. It didn’t dawn on me until I arrived home that all the hard work was going to be eclipsed by the level of education that all the hard work was going to be as exhausting as it sounds. The course was never going to end but eventually we were in our final week and counting down the hours until we graduated. All together we were eclipsed by the level of education that all the hard work was going to be as exhausting as it sounds. The course was never going to end but eventually we were in our final week and counting down the hours until we graduated. All together we were
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Weed Management, Fertiliser and Chemical Calculations, Soil Physiology, Soil Chemistry and Agronomy. These were then interspersed with other smaller, but no less important, lectures on Irrigation, Arboriculture, Staff management, Golf Course Design and Architecture. There were also some guest lecturers from the world of golf including Bill Spence from the Brookline Country Club and a USGA agronomist Jim Skorulski.

Of course it wasn’t all work, there were plenty of nights when we all went out for food and drinks, to watch Hockey matches and play Ten Pin Bowling. I quite fancied my chances at bowling but quickly realised that I had no chance, as this was one of their many national events, the best of which was on the main course. We graduated on a Friday afternoon which gave us chance to see the Toro facilities and factories. We went to the finest steak house to start off with and had an amazing meal, this was followed by a VIP trip to watch the local basketball team, Minneapolis Timberwolves, play Utah Jazz. We had court-side seats and at half time we went to the backstage bar and met all of the locals. I’ve got say a big thanks to Roger as he was my taxi almost everywhere while at Umass and he treated me like one of his family and I would gladly call him a friend for life.

The campus was like a small town with its own basketball and ice hockey arena, bars, restaurants and numerous high rise flats to accommodate all of the students. The place was so big it even had its own Power Station! It was a great weekend but before we knew it we were driving back to the Comfort Inn and Umass for another week of lectures. It felt like the course was never going to end but eventually we were in our final week and counting down the hours until we graduated. All together we were 117 2 hour lectures, plus homework and 32 exams! It was as exhausting as it sounds. The course pushed each and every one of us, including myself, to the limit of what could be achieved, but achieve we did as every one of the 42 students passed with flying colours.

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Monday morning came and it was time to leave New England behind and head for Minneapolis to see the Toro facilities and factories. I met up with the two Australian winners and the Canadian winner from Umass and we were shown every inch of Toro’s three main sites from the Headquarters, Research and Design and Manufacturing and Assembly. It was great to see how the products were initially conceived, designed and tested before being assembled into the machines we use every day. It was eye opening to see the scale that goes into it and how all the staff take pride in what they do, it’s no wonder we end up using products with such a good build quality.

Edric Fuxx was our guide while we were in Minneapolis. He made sure that we had everything we needed and he arranged our evenings out for food and entertainment, the best of which was on the Wednesday when we headed out into Minneapolis city centre. We went to the finest steak house to start off with and had an amazing meal, this was followed by a VIP trip to watch the local basketball team, Minneapolis Timberwolves, play Utah Jazz. We had court-side seats and at half time we went to the backstage bar and met all of the players as they came out for

The course was going home for the weekend, so a few of us booked a hotel and he gave us a lift. During the day we went to the New England Aquarium and did the tourist trail and at night we ventured into China town for food and drinks. It was a great weekend but before we knew it we were driving back to the Comfort Inn and Umass for another week of lectures. It felt like the course was never going to end but eventually we were in our final week and counting down the hours until we graduated. All together we were 117 2 hour lectures, plus homework and 32 exams! It was as exhausting as it sounds. The course pushed each and every one of us, including myself, to the limit of what could be achieved, but achieve we did as every one of the 42 students passed with flying colours. We graduated on a Friday afternoon which gave us chance to see the Toro facilities and factories. We went to the finest steak house to start off with and had an amazing meal, this was followed by a VIP trip to watch the local basketball team, Minneapolis Timberwolves, play Utah Jazz. We had court-side seats and at half time we went to the backstage bar and met all of the players as they came out for
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It’s a huge personal achievement that all the hard work had paid off and that a personal dream had come true. It hadn’t dawned on me that all the hard work was going to be eclipsed by the level of education I was about to receive at the University of Massachusetts (Umass).

The next few months passed like a blur. In order to obtain my Visa there was a never-ending stream of forms filling followed by an interview with the US Embassy in London. As well as this there was Christmas and New Year to think about and then I was about to receive at the University of Massachusetts (Umass) the prize for Turf Student of the Year, Matt Perks, reveals all about his trip to the States, the prize for scooping the top accolade in the annual BIGGA competition.

As well as this there was Christ-mas and New Year to think about as well as a busy few months working on the golf course.

However, on January 3, I found myself sat in Heathrow Airport on my own ready to go. I knew partially arrived at the Comfort Inn, which would be my home for the next 7 weeks. I set my alarm for early next morning so that I could meet up with some fellow students on the turf management course before going straight to sleep. I wasn’t disappointed as I got chatting to everyone straight away over coffee and doughnuts and managed to get a lift to the university.

The first thing that hit me was how big the campus was. It was like a small town with its own basketball and ice hockey arena, bars, restaurants and numerous high rise flats to accommodate all of the students. The place was so big it even had its own Power Station!

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Friday soon rolled around and it was time to leave for the final leg of my trip; the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. To be honest it really crept up on me as I had been so busy over the previous seven weeks I hadn’t even had time to think about going there, but soon I had landed at McCarran airport and was in a taxi on the way to the hotel.

I arrived at night so it was an amazing view driving down the strip with the hotels and shops all lit up. The next day I ventured out and wandered around the endless hotels, casinos and shops and in the evening I met up with Sami, Jim and Andrew from BIGGA. We went out for dinner and chatted about the trip so far and how everything had gone, it was great to see them again.

The next few days were spent at the show looking around the thousands of stands and exhibits. The place was truly gigantic and you definitely needed the map to find your way around. I ran into so many people from the UK while I was out there and spent hours talking to all of them about the industry and where it is headed. I got a really positive feel from everyone and it was great to see that none of the passion has been lost over the difficult last three years, in fact I think it’s made some people even more passionate and determined to succeed in their particular area, whether that be a greenkeeper, machinery supplying, or any one of the many aspects that come from managing golf courses.

Then, before I knew it, Friday had come and it was time to return home, so, I packed my bags and headed for the airport. While I was sitting waiting for the plane I had a few hours to reflect on the trip, how much I had learned and how much the experience had changed my life for the better. I can honestly say it was the trip of a lifetime and something I wish I could go back and repeat all over again. I’d like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved with the Toro award, particularly Sami Collins and all of the staff at BIGGA, as well as Pete Mansfield and his secretary Christine Wilson from Lely UK who not only sponsored the award but also made sure that I had everything I needed every step of the way. This just leaves me to say good luck to this year’s nominees and to the eventual winner: get ready for the trip of a lifetime!
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Turf pesticides are designed to protect fine grasses from insect pests, plant pathogens and weeds, but could now be in need of protection from themselves and the clutches of increasingly ‘dynamic’ EU directives issued by Brussels.

Given the short time frame in which apparently safe turf pesticides with long pedigrees of effectiveness are being withdrawn from the marketplace, it is not difficult to find a chiropractor who has a practice that is not particularly effective from an environmental integrity to operator and public safety.

The answer to pesticide protection is in product ‘stewardship’, an ethic and concept embodying the responsible planning and management of pesticide resources in relation to the environment and public health.

Product stewardship operates at two levels, first with the manufacturer who develops and markets the pesticide product and secondly with the greengrass who applies the pesticide product according to label recommendations and within a broader best practice turf management programme.

Bio-inspired pesticides

Manufacturers are designing and developing ‘new-age’ active ingredients based on naturally occurring bio-chemicals produced and deployed by soil based microorganisms. There is an obvious environmental bonus when using a pesticide derived from a substance that is naturally occurring and operational in the soil and clearly presenting much less of a risk.

This is the logical place to look for the up and coming generations of bio-founded and bio-foundation pesticides.

For instance, the antagonistic fungus Trichoderma with an ability to suppress or kill pathogenic microbes, and used commercially as a bio-control agent, does so not by magic, but through an integrated process of competitive invasion, direct control by synthesis of fungicidal and fungistatic chemicals and the induction of anti-fungal responses in host plants.

A classic example of a contemporary turf fungicide with microbial origins is anamortin discovered during research on Oudemansiella mucida and Strophurus tenacellus.

These small white or brown coloured mushroom commonly found in Czech forests first attracted scientists’ attention due to their remarkable ability to defend themselves by releasing two substances – strobinil A and oudemansin A – which kept competitor fungi at bay and even destroyed them when in range.

This pioneering work paved the way for the development of a whole range of new fungicides now called the strobilurins, several of which are at the forefront of turf fungicide management for control of Fusarium patch and other diseases of turf grasses.

A much more recent entry into the fungicide market from this avenue of research is fludioxonil, a brand new contact turf fungicide providing targeted control of pathogens responsible for key diseases of turf such as Fusarium patch, anthracnose and leaf spot. Among its many novel and innovative features fludioxonil takes effect not only on the green leaf but also on the thatch and soil surface to pre-emptively hit the fungus Microdochium nivale (Fusarium patch) when in saprophytic mode and before it has a chance to infect living grass leaves and damage the turf with symptoms of Fusarium patch disease.

An opportunity for the discovery, design and development of new age pesticides along these avenues and pathways is limitless.

Pesticide profiles

Fast disappearing are the days when mind-sets were focused on ‘ dosage’ as the amount of active ingredient expressed on a per hectare basis and required to control the target pest, pathogen or weed. Manufacturer’s now talk about ‘loading’ with the environment, now uppermost in mind and consideration. Of related focus and concern following the flood of restrictions and regulations in the ‘Water Framework Directive’ is the need for new active ingredients to stay where they are placed in the uppermost soil profile, to exert the desired control effect and degrade before any significant leaching of chemical down through the soil profile and into the groundwater can occur.
Turf pesticides are designed to protect fine grasses from insect pests, plant pathogens and weeds, but could now be in need of protection from themselves and the clutches of increasingly ‘dynamic’ EU directives issued by Brussels.

Given the short time frame in which apparently safe turf pesticides with long pedigrees of effective use are being withdrawn from the market, or having their wings severely clipped, the greenkeeper might well ask exactly what pesticides are ‘safe’ and secure in the marketplace.

The short straight answer is that no single chemical pesticide is absolutely secure with an assured viability with each application process. Protecting the many lakes and ponds from pesticides running the gauntlet of the goal posts presented to the greenkeeper who applies the pesticide product and secondly to the manufacturer who develops and markets the pesticide product according to label recommendations and within a broader best practice turf management programme.

Bio-inspired pesticides

Manufacturers are designing and developing ‘new-age’ active ingredients based on naturally occurring bio-chemicals produced and deployed by soil based microorganisms. There is an obvious environmental bonus when using a pesticide derived from a substance that is naturally occurring and operational in the soil and clearly presenting much less of a risk.

This is the logical place to look for the up and coming generations of bio-founded and bio-foundation pesticides.

For instance, the antagonistic fungus Trichoderma with an ability to suppresses or kill pathogenic microbes, and used commercially as a bio-control agent, does so not by magic, but through an integrated process of competitive invasion, direct control by synthesis of fungicidal and fungi-static chemicals and the induction of anti-fungal responses in host plants.

A classic example of a contemporary turf fungicide with microbial origins is anamnycin discovered during research on Cucumis melo and Tribolium castaneum. These small white or brown coloured mushrooms commonly found in Czech forests first attracted scientists’ attention due to their remarkable ability to defend themselves by releasing two substances – strobilarin A and oudemansin A – which kept competitors fungi at bay and even destroyed them when in range.

This pioneering work paved the way for the development of a whole range of new fungicides now called the strobilurins, several of which are at the forefront of turf management for control of Fusarium patch and other diseases of turf grasses.

A much more recent entry into the turf fungicide market from this avenue of research is fludioxonil, which Syngenta describes as bio-inspired. Fludioxonil is a fungicide from the phenylpyrrole group of chemicals derived from the natural antifungal substance pyrrolnitrin produced by Pseudomonas pyrocinia soil bacteria.

Greenkeepers will recognise fludioxonil as the active ingredient of Syngenta’s Medallion TL, a brand new contact turf fungicide providing targeted control of pathogens responsible for key diseases of turf such as Fusarium patch, anthracnose and leaf spot. Among its many novel and innovative features fludioxonil takes effect not only on the green leaf but also on the thatch and soil surface to pre-emptively protect the turf with sympotms of Fusarium patch disease. Opportunity for the discovery, design and development of new age pesticides along these avenues and pathways is limitless.

By Dr Terry Mabbett returns with part two of his high-level analysis of European Turf Threats

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TOP RIGHT AND WIDE RIGHT: Golf courses with water courses require extra care and attention when it comes to the pesticide application process. Protecting the many lakes and ponds from pesticide drift and run off is a top priority.

Fludioxonil is a fungicide from the phenylpyrrole group of chemicals derived from the natural antifungal substance pyrrolnitrin produced by Pseudomonas pyrocinia soil bacteria.
Bio-inspired, bio-based active ingredients are more likely to automatically fulfill these requirements compared with traditional chemical pesticides created in the crucible. The original natural bio-chemical having evolved in natural soil-dwelling microbes will, by its very nature, be highly potent and targeted and, therefore active at a comparatively low [%] loading against a narrow range of competitors.

Similarly it must be inherently resistant to leaching in order to carry out its defensive function in the uppermost soil profile including on the thatch. The eventual active ingredient is not the original natural biochemical, but having the same basic chemistry the foundations for these benefits are in place.

Stewardship on the golf course

Greenkeepers have their role to play by adhering to the instructions and recommendations on the product label and following best practice around the entire pesticide application process and also in its wider context.

This will include avoidance of drift by not spraying in windy conditions and not placing spray closer than stipulated to water courses, lakes and ponds by increasingly adopting low drift hydraulic spray nozzles and controlled droplet application (CDA) sprayers that use shielded rotary atomiser nozzles to virtually eliminate spray drift.

However, in these times of increased official scrutiny, that might not be enough, meaning that the course manager should always be thinking laterally and one step ahead. Soil compaction is a fact of life on golf courses and its effect on grass growth and general turf condition is well known. However, there are additional dimensions with strong implications for pesticide use and environmental protection. For instance, compacted turf is prone to ‘puddling’ and run-off of surface water is thus created. Timely aeration may, therefore, become an important, albeit more tenuous, factor in pesticide product stewardship. Thinking ahead means casting a watchful eye beyond the sports amenity turf ‘best’ and into other dimensions of pesticide use such as agriculture and horticulture. A classic case in point is the current concern expressed by apiarists (beekeepers) and some environmentalists who claim that the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on arable crops, including oilseed rape, is harming bee populations.

At first glance such concerns are completely inappropriate to golf courses populated with wild flowers, but always in non-treated areas. However, closer examination shows that the greenkeeper needs to be on guard because successful broadleaf weeds of turf are, by their very nature, extremely prostrate plants with growing points at soil level that mimic the mower blades. Weeds such as white clover that flower on greens and tees are an extremely rare event, but fairways are a different matter. In midsummer as the turf starts to dry out and drought resistant white clover starts to get the edge on turf grasses it is not unusual to find large patches of white clover in full flower and acting as the proverbial honey pot for bees. White clover is one of the most important honey plants in the United Kingdom and mowing regime can clearly play a part in product stewardship.

What’s in the spotlight?

Speculating on pesticides which could be at risk is generally not a good idea and probably a case of tempting fate. However, there are several important pesticides susceptible to the spotlight in the spotlight in the spotlight.

Asulam

Greenkeepers might not ever be aware of this highly specialist herbicide unless they have a problem with bracken on their course. If they do they will undoubtedly be concerned because as the situation currently stands asulam could be on the way out forevermore as asulam can no longer be purchased and all stock is predicted to be gone by 31 December 2012.

Asulam is highly selective against bracken and if this herbicide cannot be saved the only other herbicide for bracken control would be the total systemically acting herbicide which cannot be used safely in the same way as asulam. Greenkeepers with a bracken problem who are unable, or not wanting to use glyphosate will be left with heavy horses and manual methods to lay, flail, roll, beat and bruise bracken into submission.

Anulam is available for use in 2012 under use-up provisions and most recent re-registration to secure its future for the long term. This may take five years but there is now the possibility of obtaining a series of Emergency Authorisations for 2013, 2014, 2015 and probably 2016.

Carbendazim

Carbendazim is the last in a long line of chemicals used by greenkeepers to control surface casting earthworms and the mess they make on greens and tees.

The situation with carbendazim is becoming something of a saga and many are claiming that the pesticide will go sooner or later, although nobody seems to know when.

If it goes down and there is no certainty that it will, carbendazim will essentially have been ‘twisted by its own petard’ as a highly effective, and essential humicide (wormicide). You couldn’t make this one up if you tried because if carbendazim does fall it will be at the hurdle erected to trap pesticides which have negative effects on earthworms.

You can almost imagine the facia situation some years down the line when the custodian of carbendazim is up in front of the ‘beaks’ in Brussels and the question is asked, “Does your candidate wormicide have any effect on earthworms?”

The real irony is that if carbendazim goes and has nothing chemical to replace it, then any benefit seen by the ‘burghers in Brussels’ will almost certainly be lost in the fall-out.

They will see withdrawal of carbendazim as further reduction in pesticide loading on the environment, but this will be more than made up for by herbicide applications to control the broadleaf weeds getting a quick and easy start and severe footfall on worn casts deposited all over greens and tees.

Furthermore, it can only add to mole activity and require greenkeepers to roll footpaths to do more unspeakable things to these wild mammals which are protected in some other European countries.

Chlorpyrifos

Chlorpyrifos, the only sprayable insecticide for control of leatherjackets in turf, is the latest pesticide to stand in the spotlight as a programme of enhanced product stewardship and a new set of guidelines under the banner ‘Say NO to drift’.

This includes adhering to an extended no-spray buffer zone of 20 metres adjacent to water courses and the use of LERAP three star rated low-drift nozzles for all chlorpyrifos applications. Any loss of chlorpyrifos for use on turf would almost certainly be collateral to its situation and status at the time in agriculture.
Bio-inspired, bio-based active ingredients are more likely to automatically fulfill these requirements compared to traditional chemical pesticides created in the crucible. The original natural bio-chemical having evolved in nature soil-dwelling microbes will, by its very nature, be highly potent and targeted and, therefore active at a comparatively low [!] loading against a narrow range of competitors. Similarly it must be inherently resistant to leaching in order to carry out its defensive function in the uppermost soil profile including on the thatch. The eventual active ingredient is not the original natural biochemical, but having the same basic chemistry the foundations for these benefits are in place.

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However, in these times of increasing official scrutiny, that might not be enough, meaning that the course manager should always be thinking laterally and one step ahead. Soil compaction is a fact of life on golf courses and its effect on grass growth and general turf condition is well known. However, there are additional dimensions with strong implications for pesticide use and environmental protection. For instance, compacted turf is prone to ‘puddling’ and run-off of surface water is thus created. Timely aeration may, therefore, become an important, albeit more tenous, factor in pesticide product stewardship.

Thinking ahead means casting a watchful eye beyond the sports and amenity turf ‘best’ and into other dimensions of pesticide use such as agriculture and horticulture. A classic case in point is the current concern expressed by apiarists (beekeepers) and some environmentalists who claim that the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on arable crops, including oilseed rape, is harming bee populations.

At first glance such concerns are completely inappropriate to golf courses carpeted with wild flowers, but always in non-treated areas. However, closer examination shows that the greenkeeper needs to be on guard because successful broadleaf weeds of turf are, by their very nature, extremely prostrate plants with growing points at soil level that mina the mower blades. Seeds such as white clover that flower on greens and tees are an extremely rare event, but fairways are a different matter. In mid-summer as the turf starts to dry out and drought resistant white clover starts to get the edge on turf grasses it is not unusual to find large patches of white clover in full flower and acting as the proverbial honey pot for bees. White clover is one of the most important honey plants in the United Kingdom and a growing regime can clearly play a part in product stewardship.

What’s in the spotlight?

Speculating on pesticides which could be at risk is generally not a good idea and probably a case of tempting fate. However, there are several important pesticides sufficiently in the spotlight and known to be at risk to a greater or lesser extent.

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Furthermore, it can only add to mole activity and require greenkeepers to roll, beat and flail over areas that traditionally have a bracken control problem.

Chlorpyriphos

Chlorpyriphos, the only sprayable insecticide for control of leatherjackets on turf, is the latest pesticide to stand in the spotlight.

Although current scrutiny on its role in agriculture where the tonnage used is large and the application is much more broadly based than on turf. Use and application as a spray on managed turf is vital but significant compared to what goes on with chlorpyriphos in agriculture where it is used on vast areas for leatherjackets and to control other important pests such as orange wheat blossom midge. Agriculture is fighting back with a programme of enhanced product stewardship and a new set of guidelines under the banner ‘Say NO to DRIFT’.

This includes adhering to an extended no-spray buffer zone of 20 metres adjacent to water courses and the use of LERAP three star rated low-drift nozzles for all chlorpyriphos applications. Any loss of chlorpyriphos for use on turf would almost certainly be collateral to its situation and status at the time in agriculture.

Carbendazim

Carbendazim is the last in a long line of chemicals used by greenkeepers to control surface casting earthworms and the mess they make on greens and tees.

The situation with carbendazim is becoming something of a saga and many are claiming that the pesticide will go sooner or later, although nobody seems to know when.

If it does go, and there is no certainty that it will, carbendazim will essentially have been ‘tossed by its own petard’ as a highly effective, and essential fungicide (for mushroom production). You couldn’t make this one up if you tried because if carbendazim does fall it will be at the hurdle erected to trap pesticides which have negative effects on earthworms.

You can almost imagine the farcical situation some years down the line when the custodian of carbendazim is in up front of the ‘beasts’ in Brussels and the question is asked, “Does your candidate wormicide have any effect on earthworms?” The real irony is that carbendazim goes and has nothing chemical to replace it. Then any benefit seen by the ‘burghers in Brussels’ will almost certainly be lost in the fall-out.

InSet BeLOw: What gets into the spotlight and known to be at risk to a greater or lesser extent: Turf Pesticides (Photograph courtesy Micron Sprayers).
Defining the boundaries

Quite understandably, greenkeepers tend to be entirely focussed on the condition of their courses and, with time always being of the essence, keeping the course accurately marked should not be considered an optional extra but rather as an essential part of maintaining the course. Grant Moir, Director of Rules, at The R&A, writes...

When a course is not defined accurately it can lead to confusion on the part of players, and this can lead to breaches of the Rules, such as:

• Playing the ball from an out of bounds area
• Moving loose impediments in a water hazard, or
• Taking relief from an area that has ceased to have the status of ground under repair.

When a course has clearly marked boundaries, water hazards and ground under repair it shows a high level of professionalism, and reflects well on the greenstaff and the Club.

Boundaries

If it is a while since you turned your attention to the Rules of Golf in relation to your course, then the first place to start is with the boundaries. Ideally, the entire perimeter of the course should have an accurate boundary.

If you are fortunate, much of the course boundary will be defined by fences or walls, but most courses have some areas of the boundary that need to be supplemented by white stakes to "join" the other features and create the complete boundary.

The difficulty with using stakes is that they can be moved. Greenkeepers with courses by the beach will know that wooden stakes are often used for sizzling sausages on a Saturday night, so it is important to keep a check that the stakes are still in place.

As the Rules provide that boundary stakes are deemed to be fixed, there is no disadvantage to the player if boundary stakes are made permanent.

This can be done by using metal poles sunk into concrete, which avoids a lick of paint every so often. This can solve the problem of stakes being removed.

Of course, it is not only the perimeter of a course that can be defined as out of bounds. Many courses have internal boundaries, for example, around maintenance areas or between two holes to prevent players playing down the fairway or lines) and lateral water hazards (defined by yellow stakes or lines).

The simple explanation of the distinction between the two types of hazard is that, where it is impossible or not practical for a player to drop back on a direct line to the hole when taking relief, the hazard should be defined as a lateral water hazard, which then allows a player additional relief options. Take, for example, the beach running along holes 4 to 8 at Turnberry - going back on a direct line to the hole would probably mean dropping a ball on Ireland, so the beach on these holes is defined as a lateral water hazard. This allows for a drop two club-lengths to the side of where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard.

There can be occasions when the decision on whether to define a water hazard as yellow or red is a tricky one, and that is when common sense comes to the fore. When a player is being forced to take a drop, it is important to assess where the Rules require relief to be taken. If the nearest point of relief is in the middle of a bush, you might receive legitimate complaints. It may be that a dropping zone is required in such circumstances.

"Internal out of bounds is entirely acceptable, though it is important to ensure that these boundaries are well defined at all times"

Such definition enables the player to know whether a ball is in or out of the hazard. This is important for the following reasons:

• If the player wants to play the ball as it lies, he knows whether the restrictions that apply to a ball in a hazard apply (e.g., not grounding the club, not moving loose impediments), and
• If the ball is in the hazard, the player knows that the relief options provided under the Rules for water hazards are available.

In addition, as the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard is often the relevant reference point for taking relief, it is important for the fact that the margin is clearly defined will enable the player to proceed correctly under the Rule.

It can be costly and time consuming to define water hazard margins with painted lines, so the use of stakes tends to be the method of choice for daily play.

When positioning stakes, it is important to bear in mind that the margin will be a straight line from stake to stake, so you need to ensure that this provides an appropriate margin for the hazard that is being marked out.

Another important element to defining water hazards is the distinction between ordinary water hazards (defined by yellow stakes or lines) and lateral water hazards (defined by red stakes or lines).

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Defining the boundaries

Quite understandably, greenkeepers tend to be entirely focussed on the condition of their courses and, with time always being of the essence, keeping the course accurately maintained should not be considered an optional extra but rather as an essential part of maintaining the course. Grant Moir, Director of Rules, at The R&A, writes...

When a course is not defined accurately it can lead to confusion on the part of players, and this can lead to breaches of the Rules, such as:

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When a course has clearly marked boundaries, water hazards and ground under repair it shows a high level of professionalism, and reflects well on the greenstaff and the Club.

Boundaries

If it is a while since you turned your attention to the Rules of Golf in relation to your course, then the first place to start is with the boundaries. Mealy, the entire perimeter of the course should have an accurate boundary. If you are fortunate, much of the course boundary will be defined by fences or walls, but most courses have some areas of the boundary that need to be supplemented by white stakes (or other suitable barriers) to provide reference points and create the complete boundary.

The difficulties with using stakes is that they can be moved. Greenkeepers with courses by the beach will know that wooden stakes are often used for sizzling sausages on a Saturday night, so it is important to keep a check that the stakes are still in place.

As the Rules provide that boundary stakes are deemed to be fixed, there is no disadvantage to the player if boundary stakes are made permanent. This can be done by using metal poles sunk into concrete, which are given a lick of paint every so often. This can solve the problem of stakes being removed.

If it is not only the perimeter of a course that can be defined as out of bounds. Many courses have internal boundaries, for example, around maintenance areas or between two holes to prevent players playing down the ‘wrong’ fairway. Internal out of bounds is entirely acceptable, but again it is important to ensure that these boundaries are well defined at all times.

Water Hazards

Perhaps the most common failing when it comes to course marking is in relation to water hazards. Some water hazards have very clearly defined edges, so there is no doubting whether a ball lies in or outside the hazard. However, many rivers, burns, ponds, ditches and the like do not have distinct margins, and in such cases it is necessary to define the margins using stakes or painted lines.

Such definition enables the player to know whether a ball is in or out of the hazard. This is important for the following reasons:

- If the ball is in the hazard, the player knows that the relief options provided under the Rules for water hazards are available.
- In addition, as the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard is often the relevant reference point for taking relief, the fact that the margin is clearly defined will enable the player to proceed correctly under the Rule.

It can be costly and time consuming to define water hazard margins with painted lines, so the use of stakes tends to be the method of choice for daily play.

When positioning stakes, it is important to bear in mind that the margin will be a straight line from stake to stake, so you need to ensure that this provides an appropriate margin for the hazard that is being marked out. Another important element to defining water hazards is the distinction between ordinary water hazards (defined by yellow stakes or lines) and lateral water hazards (defined by red stakes or lines).

The simplest explanation of the distinction between the two types of hazard is that, where it is impossible or not practical for a player to drop back on a direct line to the hole when taking relief, the hazard should be defined as a lateral water hazard, which then allows a player additional relief options. Take, for example, the beach running along the 1st hole and situated 10 yards off the fairway in the rough. When areas are to be defined as GUR, they need to be clearly marked. Simply putting a notice in the ground does not help the player.

The player needs to know the extent of the area that is GUR so that relief can be taken correctly, so again stakes or lines need to be used for definition. There is no strict colour to ensure that these boundaries are well defined at all times.

“Internal out of bounds is entirely acceptable, though it is important to ensure that these boundaries are well defined at all times”

The Rules give the player the option of playing from GUR, but the Committee also has the option, by Local Rule, of prohibiting play from areas of GUR. It is fine to prohibit play, and often sensible when attempts are being made to allow an area to recover. However, if a player is being forced to take a drop, it is important to assess where the Rules require relief to be taken. If the nearest point of relief is in the middle of a bush, you might receive legitimate complaints. It may be that a dropping zone is required in such circumstances.

To Finish...

Course marking is not a huge task if you keep on top of it. Sometimes it is best achieved by allocating the responsibility to a specific member of your staff, perhaps one with a good golfing background who understands the relevance of the various stakes and lines.

And, if your Club has any doubts about course marking issues, there is always help at hand from the County and national bodies, or from The R&A.
Jim Cook takes a trip to Wiltshire, to meet the team at High Post GC, a club with ambition as high as the level of beauty it entails.

Last year, Paul Hope, a greenkeeper at High Post Golf Club, won BIGGA’s 2011 photographic competition with a stunning shot of a deer prancing over the course at first light.

After a visit to the club, one of the striking features was how much of an oasis, or even haven, this picturesque Wiltshire course offers for many other types of rare and elusive wildlife as well as deer.

It was a warm day in mid-May when I met with Course Manager, Lachlan Morrison and the team at High Post. Lachlan was keen to speak about the importance of ecology to this club and said: “We’re in the process of sympathetically clearing scrub areas and regenerating our gorse areas. We’ve re-planted gorse in new areas and it’s looking quite impressive, with new plants sprouting through where we cleared. We’ve also exposed a pine tree next to the 6th tee which was previously covered and some holly trees.”

Paul Hope said: “The wildlife is abundant out there as well. Of the birds, we’ve had red kites over the course for the first time in several years and sparrowhawks, kestrels...”
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Paul Hope said: “The wildlife is abundant out there as well. Of the birds, we’ve had red kites over the course for the first time in several years and sparrowhawks, kestrels...”
and short-eared and tawny owls have been seen. Two years ago kestrels raised two young from a box on 18. That’s one of the things I love about the job because we manage that bit of land out there and still co-exist with the fauna."

The club’s logo shows a hare running beneath a tree and every day these animals are seen on the course among others such as foxes, owls and all manner of birds of prey.

Lachlan said reasons why the 110 acre downland course sees so much wildlife are because of ecology work, environmental grasses and also that it is surrounded by arable farming land.

It is interesting to note that greenkeeping runs in the family for Lachlan, who is originally from Renfrew, Scotland, and he is part of four generations taking up the profession, with his grandfather, father, two brothers, three uncles and their sons all working at various courses.

He spoke about his chemical usage: “We don’t use a lot of fertiliser and try to be as green as we can by keeping spraying of fungicides to an absolute minimum."

“We were fungicide-free up until the winter before last when an attack of snow mould meant we had to use them. Since then we’ve changed our policy and sometimes have to use them. Since then we’ve been faced with chafer grubs a few years ago. Initially, badly affected areas were re-turfed, but finding this to be costly, time-consuming and short-lived, they tried using pheromone traps with great success.

Lachlan said: “We spent a fortune on turf but then tried the pheromone traps, which look like Chinese lanterns and they are just wonderful. You hang them about 2ft off the ground and it attracts then contains the adult chafer beetles. The first year we put them in we had to empty them weekly because we were catching so many. Last year they weren’t quite so successful, maybe because it was windy at the time and we caught a lot less, but each year when we’ve used the traps we’ve had much less damage the following year. It’s a cost effective way of dealing with the problem.”

Of the 71 bunkers on the course, the par-five 2nd boasts 17 of them! The five-strong team hand rake them every day to keep them in good shape.

Where did you learn the skill?

“I’m self taught. I’ve always been into it and most of the cameras I’ve owned up until about five years ago were point and shoot ones. I always thought photography was too difficult to learn, but the basics are so simple. From there it’s just practice.”

What other photographic awards have you won?

“I was runner up in a Salisbury Journal competition last year, won the last two competitions in the Stonehenge Trader and won a Visit Wiltshire one.”

Last year Paul used some of his pictures taken out on the course to create a calendar, for sale in the clubhouse, with proceeds going to charity. This year he was planning to do the same again.

A quirky feature of High Post is the vast number of grass-filled hollows throughout the course next to greens and on fairways. From afar they do appear like bunkers, but closer inspection reveals them to contain no sand.

Some have been formed when earth has been taken to build a green, but for others, no-one quite knows what they are. Lachlan’s theory that they are there to improve aesthetics and break up otherwise flat terrain is the most likely.

The hollows may look good, but in growing season especially, they can be a pain to maintain. Lachlan said: “A lot of our maintenance time is taken up with strimming these hollows but they are worth it as they add a lot.”

The course is on chalk and therefore drainage is never an issue. Previous to my visit it had seen almost constant rain for about six weeks but it appeared as none had fallen at all. This time last year the club had used about 1,500 cubic metres of water, a third of its allocation, this year the irrigation system had not even been turned on.

During summer the course is usually extremely dry and Lachlan said: “It burns to a crisp, but...
and short-eared and tawny owls have been seen. Two years ago ketrels raised two young from a box on 18. That’s one of the things I love about the job because we manage that bit of land out there and still co-exist with the fauna."

The club’s logo shows a hare running beneath a tree and every day these animals are seen on the course along with others such as foxes, owls and all manner of birds of prey.

Lachlan said reasons why the problem had to use them. Since then we’ve had an absolute minimum.

By keeping spraying of fungicides to a harse and try to be as green as we can usage: “We don’t use a lot of fertiliser and their sons all working at various jobs.

It is interesting to note that greenkeeping runs in the family for the deer on the course? What is the story behind your picture of the deer on the course? Through the summer I often come in at first light with my camera. I love photography, always have done, and I was out at silly o’clock chasing the sunlight, catching the sunrise off to the side of the second green. I watched a load of shuns off and was stood off to one side leaning against the pine tree smoking a cigarette. The deer wandered out from the trees on my left and stood right in front of me. I got some shots of it walking across the green, one of which was the one I won the competition with and then it came and stood about 15 ft in front of me, posed for a minute, then off it went. Usually they run as soon as they see you and I’ve been after a picture for ages. Last year there were three of them, a mother and two little ones.”

What other wildlife have you enjoyed taking photographs of? “I’d not seen a short eared owl on the course before and it was brilliant to get a picture of one of them. At kinds of birds of prey and the red kite is probably my it walking across the green, one of which was the one I won the competition with and then it came and stood about 15 ft in front of me, posed for a minute, then off it went. Usually they run as soon as they see you and I’ve been after a picture for ages. Last year there were three of them, a mother and two little ones.”

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Where did you learn the skill? “I’m self taught. I’ve always been into it and most of the cameras I’ve owned up until about five years ago were point and shoot ones. I always thought photography was too difficult to learn, but the basics are so simple. From there it’s just practice.”

What other photographic awards have you won? “I was runner up in a Salisbury Journal competition last year, won the last two competitions in the Stonehenge Trader and won a Visa Wiltshire one.”

Last year Paul used some of his pictures taken out on the course to create a calendar, for sale in the clubhouse, with proceeds going to charity. This year he was planning to do the same again.

A quirky feature of High Post is the vast number of grass-filled hollows throughout the course next to greens and on fairways. From afar they do appear like bunkers, but closer inspection reveals them to contain no sand. Some have been formed where earth has been taken to build a green, but for others, no-one quite knows what they are. Lachlan’s theory that they are there to improve aesthetics and break up otherwise flat terrain is the most likely.

The hollows may look good, but in growing season especially, they can be a pain to maintain. Lachlan said: “A lot of our maintenance time is taken up with strimming these hollows but they are worth it as they add a lot.”

The course is on chalk and therefore drainage is never an issue. Previous to my visit it had seen almost constant rain for about six weeks but it appeared as none had fallen at all. This time last year the club had used about 1,500 cubic metres of water, a third of its allocation, this year the irrigation system had not even been turned on.

During summer the course is usually extremely dry and Lachlan said: “It burns to a crisp, but..."
because it’s bent and fescue on the fairways it goes brown and then a bit of rain and it’s back to life again. It does cause me to worry because green, stripy fairways are ideal, but regular communication with members helps to explain the issue."

There are 600 members at High Post Golf Club. The club’s greens have an organic content of around 6% and are mostly fescue, with some Highland bent and a little of the inevitable meadow grass.

Lachlan spoke about the sun being a cultural method of ridding greens of meadow grass, though warned: “Since fescue is more drought resistant, two months into the summer most of the meadow grass is gone. We’ve got to be careful though and get the balance right, because we could end up with patchy areas on the greens if the meadow grass is completely killed off.”

A number of projects, large and small, have been undertaken over the past few years.

In 2008, the facilities for the greenkeepers were improved immensely. Where there used to be a single room, there is now a self-contained building with drying and washing facilities, a canteen and office.

Other recent projects have been the building of two aggregate bays, one for sand and one for top-dressing, completed by a contractor last winter and also the building of sleeper-lined paths on parts of the course which was done in-house.

At 6,105 yards High Post Golf Club’s course is not the longest, but challenging it certainly is.

Tournaments including the McGregor Cup, the Carris Trophy, South West Amateur and English Boys Open have been played here and the weekend after my visit two tournaments including the Wiltshire County Championships were due to be hosted by the club.

Peter Alliss, who once held the course record, has rated High Post’s 9th hole in his choice of the best 18 holes in Great Britain. This deceptively tricky hole dog-legs to the right and unless a drive is placed to the left of the fairway, a hazardous blind approach awaits.

Just before I left the club, Lachlan and I stood by the 18th green watching a variety of military aircraft buzzing about the nearby MoD Boscombe Down aircraft testing base. Planes often pass low and directly over the 3rd green and a few years ago a Harrier even crashed near the course after the pilot ejected.

Our attention was soon turned to a bird hovering in thermals above the course; a kestrel preying for food. Then another at a higher altitude, which appeared to be a buzzard and then darting swallows that make the same journey from Africa every spring.

This swarm of activity brought it home how vibrant a place High Post Golf Club is. 2022 will be the club’s centenary year and in preparation they were looking at bringing in architects to assess what improvements could potentially be made out on the course. Clearly the future holds a lot in store for this busy and unique golf club.

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**HPGC Equipment Inventory**

- 2 Toro 3250 greens mowers
- 2 Toro 3400-3 sod cmenders
- Toro 3600 Rough mower
- Toro 3600-3 sod cmender
- John Deere 4610
- John Deere 220A hand mowers
- 2 John Deere Pro Gators

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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...
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Algae in ponds and lakes

Graham Paul returns with another opportunity for you to earn more BASIS points

The term ‘Algae’ translates as ‘seaweed’ in Latin and describes a large group of organisms that can be found in saltwater, freshwater, in soils and in a wide variety of other habitats.

Algae exist as single celled or multicellular organisms that vary in size from microscopic to macroscopic – marine seaweeds are usually complex for the scope of this article. Filamentous algae produce a thick mat that floats on the surface of ponds and lakes. These mats, which are sometimes referred to as ‘blanket-weed’ or ‘cott’, are particularly unsightly and will also cause problems in block outlets, pumps and sluice gates where water is used in irrigation or processed for drinking. They make navigation difficult for waterfowl on static water and may also cause problems in blockage of sedimentation basins, reducing leaching are the products employing a polymer coating for water exchange at the surface with consequent reduction in water oxygen levels that can harm fish and other aquatic creatures.

A group of macroscopic algae known as the Stoneworts (Chara spp. and Nitella spp.) are often mistaken for varieties of rooted, submerged aquatic weeds. Stoneworts are usually packaged as freeze dried forms (e.g. ‘Lake-Pak’ in freeze dried forms (e.g. ‘Lake-Pak’ - Crystal’ from Everris. They are usually packaged as measured doses in water soluble sachets to make application very simple.

Cyanobacteria are unicellular organisms that can grow in large numbers under the right conditions, producing an algal bloom that some people refer to as ‘sea soup’. In a static body of water this will cause the dissolved oxygen to become depleted, with consequent harm to any vulnerable aquatic life. Although Cyanobacteria are no longer classified as true algae there is a group we refer to as the ‘Green water algae’ that includes many single celled species with the ability to produce a green algal bloom in slow moving or static water.

Causes of algae problems in water

The main cause of algal development in a body of water is an excess of dissolved nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) usually leached from nearby land. Like higher plants, algae need the same growth stimulants; a supply of nutrients, warmth and light.

Strategies to Control Algae.

There are no longer any chemicals available to control algae in water in Europe. However, dealing with the problem is a simple matter of taking steps to deny the algae one or more of these growth stimuli. Logically the first step is to consider ways of removing excess nutrients from the water. In the long term we should try to identify the source of nutrients leaching in to the pond or lake and attempt to correct this.

This will be simpler if the source of pollution is under the same ownership as the pond or lake. There are many golf courses where the water features are polluted by fertiliser applied to other parts of the course. It may be possible to reduce the amount of fertiliser applied to the land nearby and so minimise the nutrients leaching into the water.

Alternatively, conventional fertilisers could be replaced by products with controlled release characteristics.

Over the years fertiliser manufacturers have developed a variety of techniques for extending the release period of their products to achieve a reduction in clipping yields as well as cutting down on nutrient leaching. Some products employ a nutrification inhibitor to increase the period of nitrogen availability while others use organic nutrition sources that cause a delay in nutrient release while microbial degradation takes place to unlock the plant foods and make them available for use. A number of controlled release fertilisers are available with release periods of 6 to 8 months.

In principle, the use of controlled release fertilisers aims to put much lower amounts of nutrient into the ground, since there will be less wastage through leaching.

Probably the best type of controlled release mechanisms for reducing leaching are the products employing a polymer coating where the nutrients are released in response to temperature alone. (e.g. ‘Multiprof’ from Headland Amino)

In periods of prolonged rainfall the micro-pores on the surface of the coated granules will react to the cold rain by closing up, preventing further release from the nutrient core.

After the rain, surface temperature on the granule will rise and re-open the pores allowing nutrient release to resume.

Controlled release fertilisers are more expensive than conventional feeds but they do have other benefits that can reduce labour and machinery maintenance costs, which may help to balance the case for using them to improve the quality of a water features nearby.

The next strategy to consider is the removal of nutrient from water using specially selected species of bacteria that thrive in nutrient-rich water. There are several manufacturers that can supply bacterial cultures in freeze dried forms (e.g. ‘Lake-Pak’ from Becker Underwood and Pro-Crystal’ from Everris. They are usually packaged as measured doses in water soluble sachets to make application very simple.

These products can only be used from late spring onwards, when the water temperature is sufficient to sustain the growth and proliferation of the bacteria they contain.

A minimum temperature of 10°C and water pH within the range of 6 to 8 will provide ideal conditions for these bacterial based products to work.

Refer to product manufacturer’s literature for rates of use and re-treatment recommendations, as these can vary with the product. It will be necessary to measure the approximate volume of the water requiring treatment to determine how much product is needed.

Aeration of the water is beneficial for the development of bacteria so, if possible, use an aeration fountain to enhance the effectiveness of these products.
The term ‘Algae’ translates as 'seaweed' in Latin and describes a large group of organisms that can be found in saltwater, freshwater, in soils and in a wide variety of other habitats.

Algae exist as single celled or multicellular organisms that vary in size from microscopic to macroscopic – marine seaweeds are actually complex forms of macroscopic algae and some can grow to 50m in length. Most algae are able to trap the sun’s energy by photosynthesis.

The classification of algae is too complex for the scope of this article and like many academic topics is subject to frequent changes. For example, detailed study of the so-called ‘blue-green algae’ has resulted in them being re-classified as Cyanobacteria – a phylum of bacteria-like organisms that are photosynthetic.

For the purpose of this article we shall concentrate on those types of algae that cause problems in amenity situations, factors encouraging their development and methods of control.

Algae can cause a variety of problems in water with appearance being high on the list in amenity situations, where water bodies, such as ponds and lakes, are an important part of our natural attractive landscape. Filamentous algae produce a thick mat that floats on the surface of ponds and lakes. These mats, which are sometimes referred to as ‘blanket weed’ or ‘cott’, are particularly unsightly and will also cause problems in block outlets, pumps and sluice gates where water is used in irrigation or processing.

They make navigation difficult for waterfowl on static water and on slow moving waters in canal systems and can restrict gaseous exchange at the surface with consequent reduction in water oxygen levels that can harm fish and other aquatic creatures.

A group of macroscopic algae known as the Stoneworts (Chara spp. and Nitella spp.) are often mistaken for varieties of rooted, submerged aquatic weeds. Stoneworts are highly developed forms of algae that have branches arranged in whorls and can grow to 1m in length.

They will often form large masses, floating below the surface of the water. The plant can become encrusted with salts extracted from the water and when handled has a ‘tartle’ feel – hence the name.

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...
The Paint

**Aeroline** is the most advanced, ready to use, line marking paint formula specifically developed for use on the golf course. No added water, no mixing, measuring or dilution of the paint is required, and there are no expensive waste disposal costs. Just pour into the applicator pack and apply direct to the target surface. 1 litre of paint will apply a 500 metre\(^2\) linear line.

The paint offers a high level of rainfastness that is durable under a wide range of climatic and ground conditions. It contains no hazardous material and has a low carbon footprint with minimal negative impact on the environment.

Three colour formulations white, red and yellow, are supplied in 5 litre plastic containers.

Circle the correct answer(s)
1. Which group of Algae were re-classified as Cyanobacteria?
   a) Filamentous Algae
   b) Heterocystous Algae
   c) Stoneworts
   d) Unicellular Algae
2. What is the main cause of Algal problems in ponds and lakes?
   a) Insufficient sunlight getting into the water
   b) An excess of dissolved nutrients in the water (nitrates and phosphates)
   c) High mineral deposits in the water
   d) The lack of chemicals used for their control
3. What is the minimum water temperature recommended when using bacteria to remove excess water materials?
   a) 10°C
   b) 15°C
   c) 20°C
   d) 18.5°C
4. When using the traditional barley straw method of removing algae in water, how long may we expect the effect to last?
   a) 6 years
   b) 18 days
   c) 6 months
   d) 18 months
5. What chemical is thought to be responsible for controlling Algae using the barley straw method?
   a) Carbon dioxide
   b) Methane
   c) Ethanol
   d) Hydrogen peroxide

**NEW TECHNOLOGY FROM RIGBY TAYLOR**

**Aeroline** is an innovative line marking partnership that is an environmentally acceptable alternative to aerosol markers.

### CLAIM YOUR BASIS POINTS

**SELF ASSESSMENT**

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim Two BASIS points if the questions are answered correctly, by filling in the form at: www.sherriff-amenity.com/technical.asp?newsid=21

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### Raising the stakes in marking golf course hazard lines

Introducing an innovative line marking partnership that is an environmentally acceptable alternative to aerosol markers.

**The Painter**

**Freeline** is the perfect way to mark hazard lines on golf courses offering speed, ease of use and flexibility of application.

Designed with simplicity and speed in mind, an ECO hand pressurised spray bottle is connected to the lance and carried using a shoulder harness. The spray bottle is filled with the paint and pumped to the required pressure. Flow is controlled by a trigger assembly on the lance handle. Economical and environmentally responsible, one 5 litre pack of **Aeroline** can mark a 2,500 linear metre line without refilling (equivalent to 25 aerosol cans)! To clean, simply change the paint bottle for one holding water and flush the pipes through.

**Quick...clean...easy!**

New technology from Rigby Taylor
Freephone 0800 424919 www.rigbytaylor.com

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**ABOVE:** Pond treated with **Aeroline** after application. The same pond 2 weeks after application.

**RIGHT:** Pond treated with **Aeroline** after application.
to produce hydrogen peroxide – a chemical known to inhibit most species of algae. This is a gradual process that is very temperature dependent, accelerating as the water warms. Once the barley straw treatment becomes effective, it will inhibit algae growth until the straw is almost completely decomposed.

This method probably works out cheaper than using bacterial treatments but the lake or pond will suffer from an untidy mess left by fragments of rotting straw.

The next method at our disposal is the use of water colorants that filter out the wavelengths of light that are essential to algae for photosynthesis. There is a choice of either blue or black – both produce effective results. They are available in liquid or water soluble sachets. The liquid products are applied from the water’s edge whilst water soluble packs can be thrown out to the middle of a large pond or small lake. The colorants will disperse evenly after a few hours. The use of colorants will also reduce light availability for the growth of submerged weeds as well as algae. Only products that have been developed specifically for algal control in water should be used, as these will have been tested for safety to fish and waterfowl.

Water colorants will work earlier in the season than freeze dried bacteria and their use will tend to cause a slight increase in water temperature as a result of the coloured material absorbing some of the sun’s energy. It therefore makes sense to use colorants in combination with bacterial products as an integrated programme.

CLAIM YOUR BASIS POINTS

SELF ASSESSMENT

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   c) 8°C
   d) 18.8°C

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   c) Ethanol
   d) Hydrogen peroxide
Maximise your utility budget

As is so often the case these days, there is a bewildering array of utility vehicles to choose from. Put together a few basic requirements, however, and that wide choice narrows.

First up, you have the established Cushman Turf-Truckster from Ransomes Jacobsen, the Pro Gator from John Deere and the Workman HDX models from Toro. These models are so familiar it is common for them all to be called the same regardless of who makes them; hands up those of you that call a Workman a Truckster, a Gator a Workman and well, you get the point. A key feature of these ‘heavy duty’ machines is that they are designed to do a lot more than provide a load platform and a passenger seat.

These key models have pretty similar capacities as well; the diesel-powered line-up that comprises the 24hp Pro Gator 2030A rated at 1,182kg, the 26.5hp Workman HDX-D-4WD offering a 1,289kg payload and the 23hp Cushman Turf Truckster offering a 1,293kg capacity. In the real world their overall specifications are broadly similar, with mechanical transmissions and a choice of hydraulic packages to suit specific attachments.

It is important, however, to remember that you need to look at these vehicles in the wider context of what you want them to do. The chances are you will want to consider a range of demount kit that will also fit, such as a sprayer, and it is the easy integration and complete package price of the latter that can have a big influence upon your final buying choices.

It is entirely feasible to specify an ‘off-the-peg’ vehicle based around a utility ‘skid’ that will subsequently undertake key spraying, top dressing and even core collecting requirements. The total equipment package could be more cost effective than an array of trailed and tractor mounted alternatives.

This is an important point as heavy-duty utilities are relatively expensive bits of kit; a price tag north of £20K will make any accountant sit up and take notice, but it is the ability of these tools to work with purpose built attachments that can make them a viable buy. Build quality is good too, so expect a long life from well-proven models.

Kitting out a machine with a sprayer is a good example. All the listed models will take a sprayer of around 750 litres, with boom widths of around 6 to 7m dependant upon model. The sprayer will sit low on the machine, to improve stability, with the weight more evenly spread between the wheels than perhaps would be the case with a trailed unit. The same will apply to a top dresser. When these attachments are not in use, they demount easily and free the vehicle for other work.

The caveat is that there are now keenly priced dedicated sprayers available as alternatives; these we looked at in the May issue. The trick is to work out how much work you will do with a sprayer on a utility. If the unit spends more time fitted to the vehicle than sitting in the shed on its stands you may find it more cost effective to buy a dedicated sprayer. Conversely, if you need to rebuild a bunker and ferry turf and sand around, a utility can often do the job better than a tractor and trailer; you do not have that option if you have gone for a dedicated sprayer.

Alternatively, you could also go...
Maximise your utility budget

Golf courses have really taken to utility vehicles. From Gators to Cushmans and Mules to Workhorses, you see them all over the place. If you have not looked at what is on offer more recently, however, you may not appreciate that the choice of kit on offer has widened. James De Havilland writes...

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This is an important point as heavy-duty utilities are relatively expensive bits of kit; a price tag north of £20K will make any accountant sit up and take notice, but it is the ability of these tools to work with purpose built attachments that can make them a viable buy. Build quality is good too, so expect a long life from well-proven models.

Kitting out a machine with a sprayer is a good example. All the listed models will take a sprayer of around 750 litres, with boom widths of around 6 to 7m dependant upon model. The sprayer will sit low on the machine, to improve stability, with the weight more evenly spread between the wheels than perhaps would be the case with a trailed unit. The same will apply to a top dresser. When these attachments are not in use, they demount easily and free the vehicle for other work.

The caveat is that there are now keenly priced dedicated sprayers available as alternatives; these we looked at in the May issue. The trick is to work out how much work you will do with a sprayer on a utility. If the unit spends more time fitted to the vehicle than sitting in the shed on its stands you may find it more cost effective to buy a dedicated sprayer. Conversely, if you need to rebuild a bunker and ferry turf and sand around, a utility can often do the job better than a tractor and trailer; you do not have that option if you have gone for a dedicated sprayer.

Alternatively, you could also go...
left field and buy a dedicated sprayer and a more general-purpose utility vehicle.

The latter need not have the heavy-duty capacity or fixed forward speed ability of a big Toro, Cushman or Deere, but if your need is to help move personnel and kit around, an entry-level petrol model may be the way to go. Take Kawasaki Mule 610 and Polaris Ranger 400.

These machines have a relatively low initial purchase price and are reasonably cheap to run, despite the need to run on petrol. There are also diesel powered models to consider, such as the evergreen Kawasaki Diesel Mule, together with alternatives from companies such as Club Car, Bobcat, Kubota, JCB to name a few.

The key is to establish the difference between basic utility units designed to have a light footprint and modest load capacity and machines that have a bigger payload and the ability to power attachments.

Often overlooked are battery powered electric vehicles. These tend to go in and out of fashion, but there is no denying these tools do have a future.

Polaris, for example are selling increasingly large numbers of its Ranger E, essentially sharing the same chassis as its Ranger 400 sibling with the result of it delivering good performance in more extreme conditions. However, there are other electric models to consider. These include vehicles that can be specified in road legal form, with Ranions Jacobsen having recently taken over the importation from France of the Mega electric truck range. This is quite a significant move as Ranions Jacobsen will no doubt help promote the greater use of this type of vehicle on golf courses. In terms of cost, a road ready electric truck will cost a similar amount of money as a heavy-duty ‘turf truck’; well worth a look.

Regardless of what is on offer, the key to selecting the right utility vehicle is to work out what it has to do. Heavy-duty models fit the bill perfectly when used as ‘self-propelled’ sprayers and top dressers, but they may not be the most economical choice as a general carrier.

If you can take the time to shop around and try several vehicles for a few days, you stand a much better chance of choosing the right tool.
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Regardless of what is on offer, the key to selecting the right utility vehicle is to work out what it has to do. Heavy-duty models fit the bill perfectly when used as ‘self-propelled’ sprayers and top dressers, but they may not be the most economical choice as a general carrier.

If you can take the time to shop around and try several vehicles for a few days, you stand a much better chance of choosing the right tool.

When it comes to personnel transport, the key is to look for a higher utility that can also carry a modest load. Space for essential tools, replacement greens flags, clubs, or whatever will be used is expected, so a large load platform is a help.
Scotland

The Section had an enjoyable day at Crail for their spring outing with over 50 players participating on a course that was in excellent condition. Although the overnight and early morning weather was grim, by the time golf started it was a pretty decent day. The full list of winners are on the website, but by the principal the winners on the day were as follows: Best Scratch, Gordon Moir, St Andrews Links, beating Stuart Robertson, St Andrews Golf Centre and George Stavert again for the links. Many thanks to George Stavert again for the links. Many thanks to George Stavert again for the links.

Central

East

Well, we had our spring outing at the Glen last Thursday and the weather was perfectly acceptable this time in comparison to the stormy day we had on the previous occasion. Thirty-three clubs turned up and here is a list of all the winners:

Scratch winner 68 gross Nick Butler, Murcar/Monifieth Golf Club
1st class winner Keith Buros, Hins Golf Club
Runner up, Grant Moran, Mortonhall Golf Club
2nd class winner Stuart Ferguson, Dunoon Park Golf Club
Runner up, Ryan McCulloch, Goswick Golf Club
3rd class winner Kenneth MacLennan, Golfland/Golf Club,
Veterana winner Aalastair Hofman, Seaburne Golf Club
Best Nett winner Scott Corrigan, Greenburn Golf Club
Price prize: James Bahmohr, Hins Golf Club
Trade winner, Stewart Clayton, Greeniman Limited
Novice prizes nearest the pin at the 13th hole, Pat Allan, Symbister
Longest drive at the 18th hole, Stuart Robertson, Murcar/Monifieth Golf Club
The Glen was very hospitable and Andy Kerr, Course Manager, and his staff had the course in top condition. I played with the Captain Mr. Mike Curry, who was very impressed with the condition the section went about our business, so well done to all of you for attending and I hope you all enjoyed your day. Well done to George Stavert again for making it on the day, but next time why not give him a try. A big thanks again to Stuart Ferguson for all the administration and planning on the day. Hopefully we will see the sun soon and have come back from the help the links grow as this last month has been too cold, fingers crossed.

West

Just a couple of things to mention for the section news, the main item being the recent retirement of Peter Boyd as regional administrator after 14 years of service. Peter finished on the 20th April and the west section had a small gathering of all those people who had been involved with him over the years through commitments. A dinner was arranged at the citation restaurant in town and 12 people from the west turned up along with 4 from the Ayrshire section, all in attendance appeared to enjoy themselves and were delighted to be part of the evening. The section would like to wish Peter an enjoyable retirement and hope that we can enjoy some more time with his wife Eleanor and the family.

I attended the annual match against the secretaries on Luffness New Course on Friday 8 May. The course was obviously superb for the time of year and David Coall explained all the different projects he had carried out over the last few years to help improve the course. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and the company and even better, the greenkeepers won. I would like to express my thanks to all those involved in the day which helped make it such a success. Stewart Greenhill, Peter Boyd, Tony Yates, Brian and Julie Denholm and the house staff.

The next big event to consider is the Scottish National Tournament at the Royal Park golf club on the 20th June; entries have to be submitted to the head office at Aldwalk Manor.

I will report on the spring outing results in the next issue and once again if anybody has any information for me could they please get in contact on the writing office, lawns@scottland.ac.uk

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Good news have a good turn out from the section.

If there is anything happening in your area is there any anyone with members in Ayrshire, or anything else that may be of interest to anyone else, please let me know by e-mail on dunoon@lawns.ac.uk

All the best for the season.

Northern Region

Ayrshire

The spring outing of the Ayrshire section was held at Prestwick which includes Dumfries and Galloway, was held on arguably the best morning of the weather and the weather was kind to us. We had a fantastic prize table provided by John Orth, who was a kind sponsor of Barbots Links and the lovely Rebecca, thank you very much indeed.

Congratulations to Dave Colins who cleaned up winning the Division one trophy and the Scratch trophy.

Div one: 1st Dave Collins, 2nd Stuart Mason, 3rd A Baxter
Div two: 1st R. Smith, 2nd N Booth, 3rd P Stewart
Div three: 1st G Street, 2nd J Baxter, 3rd R Bottom
Nearset prize: Stuart Mason & A Scaman, Trade prize winner: J Collot

3rd. The end of another year, and I hope that 2012 will be a successful year. Thank you to all the players who have taken part, we look forward to seeing you all in 2013, both on the links and at our social events.

North East

Hi all,

Well the golf season is certainly up and running and we have had the spring tournament, which was held at Leasowe GC. A turn out of about 80 players in good conditions on this seaside links. First of all me thank Leasowe GC for the courtesy of the course, the catering staff for the meal and the Head greenskeeper Chris Peddie and his staff for the presentation, which made it such an enjoyable day.

The winner was Craig Morris with a score of 30 points, which was a three-way tie with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Mcglothin and Chris Gibson.

The longest drive and nearest pin prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John Mcglothin. Well done to everybody on the day.

There are a couple of people联络ing the section about moving to Leasowe with a back 9 count back with two other competitors who were John Mcglothin and Chris Gibson.

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Now for the scores: Best Gross winner - David Wason 40 points, Ian Barr 34 points. Second class winner Stuart Ferrier, Strathmore Golf Centre by a shot. Best Scratch, Gordon Moir, Scottish National Tourna-

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ing on a course that was in excellent condition. Although the overnight and early morn-
ing weather was grim, by the time golf started it was a pretty decent day. The full list of par-
ticipants are on the website, but by the principal the winners on the day were as follows:
Best Scratch, Gordon Moir, St Andrews Links, beating Stuart Robertson, St Andrews and Golf Centre by a shot. Best nett, Kenny Mitchell, St Andrews Links. Paul Murphy of Pife Golf Trust won the 1st section and Another 1, Pipperdam, won the 2nd. Kevin Brunton from Greencroft won the trade prize. Our thanks to Crail Golfing Society their staff and our Patrons for making the day such a success. The 2012 Pairs competition is well under
way and again results are on the website.

Congratulations to Sandy Gounden who will be succeeding John Philip at Carnoustie Golf Links after John retires at the end of June.

There are a couple of dates for educational events. Eric Lyons of Guernsey Uni in Canada will be talking at Elmswood at the beginning of June with Peter Kminkski and Rik Link from Paisley and Pune University

The results of the survey carried out recently will be analysed, this along with more information on the talks will be on the website. Thanks to all who took part.

www.biggacentralsection.org.

uk or jyr at Facebook, Regards,
Gordon Moir

East

Well done, we had our spring outing at the Crail last Thursday and the weather was perfectly adequate this time in compar-
ion to the stormy day we had originally planned. Thirty-three players turned up and here is a list of all the
winners:

Scratch winner 68 gross
Philip Butler, Murcarfield Golf Club
1st class winner Keith Burgess, Hins Golf Club
Runner up, Grant Moran Mortonhall Golf Club
2nd class winner Stuart Ferguson, Dunfes Park Golf Club
Runner up, Ryan McCulloch, Goswick Golf Club
3rd class winner Kenneth MacDonald, Crieff Golf Club
Veteran winner Alistair Holman, Selkirk Golf Club
Best Nett winner Scott Cor-
rigan, Greenburn Golf Club
Price prize: James Baldnio, Hins Golf Club
Trade winner, Stewart Clay-
ton, Greencroft

Newlyn prizes nearest the
pin at the 13th hole, Pat Allan, Symbi
Longest drive at the 18th hole, Stewart, Dunbarston, Greenburn New Golf Club

The Glen was very hospitable and the Kerr, Course Manager, and his staff had the course in excellent condition. We also played with the Captain Mr. Mike Curry, who was very impressed with the course, while my section, went about our business, so well done to all of you for attending and I hope you all enjoyed your day. Well
done to George Sturart again for making it on the day, but next time you will be George Sturart. A big thanks again to Stuart Ferguson for all the administra-
tion and planning on the day. Hopefully we will see the sun soon and if you can rope a few of you in to help the links grow as this last month has been too cold, fingers crossed.

Stewart Crawford

West

Just a couple of things to mention for the section news, the main item being the recent retirement of Peter Boyd as regional administrator after 14 years of service. Peter finished on the 20 April and the west section had a small gathering of all those people who had been involved with him over the years through commit-
tee work. A dinner was arranged at the citation restaurant in town and 12 people from the west turned up along with 4 from the Ayrshire section, all in attendance appeared to enjoy themselves and were delighted to be part of the evening. The section would like to wish Peter a long and enjoyable retirement and hope that we can enjoy some more time with his wife Eleanor and the family.

I attended the amputee match against the secretaries on Luff-
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ent projects he had been working on over the last few years to help improve the course. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and the company and even better, the grenkewlens won. I would like to express my thanks to all those
involved in the day which helped make it such a success, Stuart Green, Peter Boyd, Tony Yates, Brian and Julie Denholm and the rest.

The next big event to consider is the Scottish National Tourna-
mament at Balmbro, Hirsel Golf club on the 20 June; entries have to be submitted to the head office at Aldwark Manor.

I will report on the spring outing results in the next issue and once again if anybody has any information for me could they please get in contact on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolf.com or by mobile on 07799282344 or 0141 941 3534.

Hope you have a good season, Stewart Taylor

Ayrshire

The spring outing at the Ayr-
shire section on the 18th April included Dumfries and Galloway, was held on arguably the best course in Scotland. It is again a competition. I don’t know what the answer is; we have tried changing the time of the tee off time, yet still we struggle.

Would it not be nice if we could get just one person from a golf club who have more than one person on the tee?

What a difference that would make.

Now getting back to Competi-
tion; what a pleasure it was to play the course, which is kept in excellent condition by Phil Hargave and his staff. The greens were superb and I reckon you want see any better than this year despite having the drier March on record and the wettest April. Lucky for us it only rained for the first hour, but another ten minutes and we would have walked off it was that bad, but we carried on and enjoyed the rest of the course.

Thank you to the catering staff for the great meal.

Now for the scores: Best Gross - J. Gillespie, 79, Northumberland GC, Best Nett R. Reid 72 on count back. J.S.Richardson, 72, Black 87.

Thank you to Glen Baxter of Rigby Taylor and Alan Mort, T.S.L and Weeheid GC for donating prizes on the day.

I have a piece of news from Tommy Harrison, Gosforth GC, of movement from his secretary to local and become a self-employed landscape, Chris Walker been kindly sponsored to first assistant and Connor Bush has been taken on to apprentice; good luck to you all.

That is for another month; let’s hope that we start getting some sunshine and not as much rain.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern Region

Well here we go folks, the sec-
tion golf days are under way. The forecast for the first event at Elsogroed was pretty poor, but 30 of us mad golfers made the effort. A huge thanks and my respect to you guys who made it, we got a little wet, but eh we are used to it.

Even bigger thanks to Eas-
goed golf club for allowing us to play on of our favourite courses and to Billy and Elizabeth who hosted the day of the week and teeing-

ing on your course, or with the staff for the presentation, which made it an enjoyable day.

The winner was Craig Morris with a score of 62 points, which works in as a three-way tie, coming back with a 99 count back with two other competitors who were John MCGoughlin and Chris Gibson.

The longest drive and closest

pino prizes were picked up by Billy Merritt and John McLough-
l and they were wet but we were used to it.

Congratulations to David Col-
s who cleaned up winning the Division one trophy and the Snatch trophy.

Div 1: 1st Dav John, 2nd Dav John, 3rd J Baxter
Div 2: 1st R. Smith, 2nd N Booth, 3rd P Stewart
Div 3: 1st G Street, 2nd J Baxter, 3rd R Brownworth

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North West

Hi all,

Well the golf season is cer-
tainly up and running and we've had the spring tournament, which was held at Leasowe GC. A turn out of about 40 in good conditions on this seaside links. First of all I must thank Leasowe GC for the courtesy of the course, the catering staff for the meal and the Head greenkeeper Chris Peddie and his staff for the presentation, which made it such an enjoyable day.

The winner was Craig Morris with a score of 60 points, which was a three-way tie, coming back with a 99 count back with two other competitors who were John MCGoughlin and Chris Gibson.

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Div 1: 1st Dav John, 2nd Dav John, 3rd J Baxter
Div 2: 1st R. Smith, 2nd N Booth, 3rd P Stewart
Div 3: 1st G Street, 2nd J Baxter, 3rd R Brownworth

Nearest pin: Stuart Mason & A Scannan, Trade prize winner: J Collit. The next event will be The Presidents Day at Scarforth golf club on the 27 June with a 1.30 tee off, so come on guys
Worried with the new life down south. With any back his able deputy Damian will get the pro- motions right. There's no way we are in the golf industry.

Matt Shinnan is leaving Hop- wood Heath GC to work in the West, well Paul being on a links course seems to be getting in the North Wales area.

North Wales

Let's hope that, now mid- summer is here, we can finally have our monthly profiles. April and the beginning of May were hardly anything to get excited about. The spring tournament at Llangollen was a complete washout; thank- fully everyone took the day and disappointment in their stride and stayed as friendly as ever in the clubhouse. Although no meaningful golf was played on Thursday and Friday, the golfers who stayed and remained in the hotel had a good chin-wag and a laugh. The golfers who stayed and remained to the 19th June. Anyone who paid to be on the original day will play free of charge for just a play a basis only, food will not be included on the day. Anyone who would like to book a tee time daily will be charged the daily fee of £5

East Midlands

As the hose pipe ban has got into full swing and the rivers and reservoirs started rapidly filling up, the coldest, wettest April for over twenty years the East Midlands Section played their Spring Tournament at Scroffiton GC. Thursday 26th April. Many courses around England and Wales have been closed due to the extreme weather conditions but Nigel White and his team, who had been working hard to ensure the course was playable, produced a very enjoyable and well supported game for the day. A well supported day, although there is always room for more people, saw Riaus Cato and the East Midlands trophy presented by Nigel Church at the prize giving ceremony. The day was well played and the golfers had a great time. The next Section golf day is to be held at Temple Golf Club, Dates, entry forms, and the prize list is on the BIGGA Midland Regional Educational website. The prize list is... 

BB&O

As summer approaches and the golfing season kicks into full swing hopefully many of you will have managed to get your hands on your program and completed all renovation/mainte- nance work in most management teams are going to be working hard to ensure that their courses are in the best possible condition. Many teams have had to make a big investment in turfgrass quality is unsatisfactory and good quality of maintenance is the key to a successful season. In the summer months, most courses are under pressure to get the greens in the best possible condition and to maintain good playing conditions. There are many other factors that can affect the quality of the greens, including weather conditions, soil type, and the amount of water available. The key to maintaining good playing conditions is to have a good maintenance program in place. The BB&O website is a good source of information on the latest news and tips on how to improve the quality of your greens. The BB&O website is also a good source of information on the latest news and tips on how to improve the quality of your greens. The BB&O website is also a good source of information on the latest news and tips on how to improve the quality of your greens. The BB&O website is also a good source of information on the latest news and tips on how to improve the quality of your greens. The BB&O website is also a good source of information on the latest news and tips on how to improve the quality of your greens.

Midland

Well after the unusually dry and hot March/April, the old greens are well and truly in the backside. They are as follows:

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
2. What do you think you’d be if you weren’t a greenkeeper?
3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be doing now?
4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
6. What one thing - other than your job - do you most enjoy doing?
7. Hobbies?
8. Favourite Band?
North Wales

Let’s hope that, now mid-summer is here, we can finally have proper warm weather. April and the beginning of May were hardly anything to get excited about. The spring tournament at Llangollen was a complete washout; thank-fully everyone took the day and disappointment in their stride and stayed and supported the event in the clubhouse. Although no meaningful golf was played on the day, the atmosphere was there and enjoyed by many who had a good chat and a drink.

East Midlands

As the hose pipe ban has come into full effect, the reservoirs and rivers and reservoirs started rapidly filling up with the lowest, coldest, wettest April for over twenty years. The East Midlands Section played their Spring Tournament at Scaptoft Golf Club on Thursday 26 April. Many courses around the region are still closed due to the extreme weather conditions but Nigel White and his team, who stayed ahead of the ball, produced an excellent golf course for the day. A well supported day, although there is always room for more people, saw Ruis bar in high places. The prizes were presented by Nigel Church. The winners were Bartram and Ransomes, 1st – John Bartram, 2nd – Trevor Hargreaves, 3rd – Rob Crowes, Nearest Pin – Nick Brewer, Longest Drive – Mike Yielen. While practising thinned Drives and nearly destroyed the Pro shop.

Midland Region

Well after the unusually dry and hot March/April, the old West, well Paul being on a links course in the Pennsylvania of the Pin hole. The committee are also extremely grateful to the sponsors of the day for their generosity. Sherriff Amenity, Plymouth, specifications and Sponsors Golf Club who produced a first class meal and were also excellent hosts. It was noted that the menu didn’t include brussel sprouts this year! you know who you are!

So to the Jubilee Bank Holiday has past us by now, all the hunting and ill fitting Union Jacks are packed away, until possibly next year, at least we can hopefully look forward to a good summer with happy days ahead of us as the Office of the Midland Regional Officer. We are so grateful for his hard work and thank him for all his work and effort over the years. The committee would like to particularly mention the BIGGA Section.

This month’s calendar is big! They offer a multitude of services including Course Equipment, Contract Maintenance, Course Design and Machinery Servicing etc. For their full range please visit www.bbee.greenkeepers.co.uk or Tel: 01152 641 949 Sean McCade

BB&O

As summer approaches and the golfing season kicks into full swing hopefully many of you will have managed to get your hands on one of our new golfing magazines and completed all renovation/maintenance work in that matter as in yesterday’s newsletter. In order to make your news on record! That said those of you impacted by the hearse pipe ban will be enjoying the rain and are no doubt breathing a sigh of relief that it won’t last too long. I mention the matter over the biggest influencing factor – the weather! We wait to see what the future brings!

Kington GC played host to this year’s BB&O Section Spring Up. The day was well supported with yet another fantastic turn out. A special mention must go to Brett Moggridge and his team at Linton heather for superb playing surfaces and a cracking course, which prevented GC to test willpower after day. After some strong scoring throughout the field and some impressive putting, the winner of the whole day was Andrew Moule, runner up being George Grolard. After some wonderful dealing and the course has developed into a great test of golf, which is matting nicely (just like me some say, other tell the truth)! Thank you for all your support!

South East Region

Here we go again then. Our rather small, but perfectly formed band the wind for the day and all had a good time at Waldringfield. My personal memories of Waldringfield were three parشخصية and a course in its infancy. An absolutely terrific clubhouse has replaced the portacabins and the course has developed into a great test of golf, which is matting nicely (just like me some say, others tell the truth)! Thank you for all your support and we hope to see you all there next year!

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Around The Green

BIGHGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Northern Region

Midland Region

South East Region

South West / St. Ives Region

Northern Ireland

Overseas

For more information on new members log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGHGA Website.

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Around The Green

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There is news at last of our planned trip to The Huthingdon Club on Tuesday 12 June. James Whittaker, who spoke at last year’s Regional Seminar and Essex Section, is giving a talk on that course and the fine meal and hospitality put on by the staff. We hope to see some of you there.

BIGHGA Website.

West Kent Golf Club when you read this, so a full report can be coming.

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Scotland

Midland Region

South East

South West

Northern Region

Essex

Sponsored the event.

We have also arranged an evening course walk and talk with Aquatrols. Topics included the history of the golf ball and how surfactants and where they

We have arranged an evening course walk and talk at T revose GC on Wednesday May 17th with the secretaries of the Central Section. This event has been well attended and has had some good feedback. We hope to hold another one next year. Thanks to Mark Morgan for arranging this.

You don’t have to do anything, just convenient for you all to use, you will like to show your interest in playing then please contact me asap.

Wages, and include a Level 2 Apprenticeship, still available for 19-24 year olds - for years to come. Thanks all.

To walk the course and ask questions during the prepara-

with warm temperatures, bright sunshine and a light breeze.

Scott McAuley, Devon/Cornwall Section

Harry Ingram, North West Section

Jack Craig, North Section

Darren Walker, Central Section

Dongli Meng, Central Section

Shuai Giuo, Central Section

Benjamin Hartley, Central Section

Scotland

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- Our 2012 Fixtures: Spring Meeting, May 16, Clyne GC, 9.30am Tee Off. Summer Meeting, July 11, Creigau GC, 1.00pm Tee Off. Autumn AGM & Meeting, October 26, Hazelwood GC, 7.00pm. Please contact us if anyone is interested in the AGM.

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## Sports Turf Update

A new column providing the latest news from STRI’s Research Team

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### Diary of Events

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 2012</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11th</td>
<td>Rigby Taylor Qualifier</td>
<td>St Mellons Golf Club</td>
<td>Gareth Knight Tel mobile: 07995 988512</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20th</td>
<td>South West Section Event</td>
<td>Cumberwell Park Golf Club</td>
<td>Adam Matthews email: <a href="mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk">adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20th</td>
<td>BIGGA Scottish National Tournaman</td>
<td>Rushmoor Golf Club</td>
<td>Alex McCombie email: <a href="mailto:southcoastsecretary@gmail.com">southcoastsecretary@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21st</td>
<td>East Anglia Section Event</td>
<td>Haverhill Golf Club</td>
<td>Iain Willett email: <a href="mailto:info@theopeness.co.uk">info@theopeness.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21st</td>
<td>South Coast Section v’s Wessex Secretaries</td>
<td>Blackmoor Golf Club</td>
<td>Chris Sheehan email: <a href="mailto:jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk">jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27th</td>
<td>Northern Section Event</td>
<td>Scarcroft Golf Club</td>
<td>Andrew Slingby email: <a href="mailto:slingbyfamily@virginmedia.com">slingbyfamily@virginmedia.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28th</td>
<td>Tactic Golf Management</td>
<td>Newport Golf Club</td>
<td>Gareth Knight Tel mobile: 07995 988512</td>
</tr>
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<td>July 11th</td>
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<td>Stand Golf Club</td>
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<td>July 11th</td>
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<td>Ashley Cricket Club near Tatton Park</td>
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<td>Otley Park Golf Club</td>
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Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update

This month, David reviews the most recent GTC’s “employer” focused workshops and how he witnessed how the Senior Managers within some golf clubs present, are clearly committed to ensuring the business is a success through a team effort.

During 2011 the GTC introduced a pilot programme of three “Chairman of Green” workshops in England, aimed primarily at improving the relationship between the Chairman of Green and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, by giving delegates an overview of the maintenance and management programmes, based on best practices that a club should be looking to implement.

Expertly delivered by Laurence Pittie MG, Turf Master One, the workshops certainly proved to me that the GTC had started to seriously address a problem which I am sure many clubs could learn from.

From the very first workshop it was evident that some clubs wasted their Chair of Green and/or Secretary and Course Manager to attend. Whilst Laurence had prepared his workshop to be aimed at the “employer”, he has, some 10 workshops later, expertly managed to tailor the day to ensure that it not only hugely benefits the employer but arguably also, the vitally important relationship between the employer and Senior Managers have up to date information on Health & Safety legislation.

During May the GTC engaged two of its Quality Assured Training Providers to deliver a Health & Safety workshop at The Mere Golf & Spa Resort in Cheshire, with Jon Allbutt and Ian Sumpter, Toro’s European Training Manager as the trainers.

Owen Davies, the host Course Manager and Cheshire Turf Machinery, the local Toro dealers, were in attendance and provided the facility and support to a very successful workshop.

More Health & Safety workshops are being planned also for the autumn.

Design and Renovation workshops have been delivered by Swan Golf Designs as part of the Continue to Learn programme during Harragrate Week, aimed at Course Managers and Deputies but again keeping on the employer focused “education” workshops.

There is a pattern taking shape at all of our workshops and that is more and more Chair of Green and/or Secretary/Proprietor together with their Course Manager/Head Greenkeepers. It has been very rewarding to see clearly how Course Managers have truly benefitted from seeing their “employer” attend workshops. The workshops are all designed to improve the importance of understanding each other’s roles and responsibilities in ensuring the golf course side of the business is run effectively and efficiently.

The GTC, following delegate feedback from its workshops, has also considered how best it can provide advice and guidance to golf clubs when the communication systems appear to be not convivial to running a successful business.

A “communication triangle” workshop to be delivered by GTC Quality Assured Training Provider Frank Newberry, the professional management trainer has been developed to ensure the employer and senior managers are all working together and communicating effectively with their members/visitors/customers.

GTC Workshop dates and venues are all available on the GTC website or by contacting the GTC direct.
This month, David reviews the most recent GTC’s “employer” focused workshops and how he witnessed how the Senior Managers within some golf clubs present, are clearly committed to ensuring the business is a success through a team effort.

During 2011 the GTC introduced a pilot programme of three “Chairman of Green” workshops in England, aimed primarily at improving the relationship between the Chairman of Green and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, by giving delegates an overview of the course manager and the maintenance and development aspects of the role.

One important aspect of golf club and course management is ensuring the employer and Senior Managers have up to date information on Health & Safety legislation. During May the GTC engaged two of its Quality Assured Training Providers to deliver a Health & Safety workshop at The Meres Golf & Spa Resort in Cheshire, with Jon Albutt and Ian Sumpter, Toro’s European Training Manager as the trainers.

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Once again there were several excellent examples of employer – Course Manager “partnerships” in attendance.

There is a pattern taking shape at all of our workshops and that is more and more Chair of Green and/or Secretary/Proprietor working together with their Course Manager/Head Greenkeepers.

It has been very rewarding to see clearly how Course Managers have truly benefited from seeing their “employers” attend workshops. The workshops are all designed to improve the understanding of each other’s roles and responsibilities in ensuring the golf course side of the business is run effectively and efficiently.

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CROSSWORD

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ACROSS
1. Servant employed to do various jobs
2. The thyroid cartilage of the larynx
3. Arrogant, resistant to persuasion
4. Programming language used for typically small web-based applications
5. Tragic king of Thebes, the subject of a drama by Sophocles
6. 1986 single by Peter Gabriel
7. Form of dirt track motorcycle racing
8. Constantly
9. Exploited, used to one’s advantage
10. French chemist who invented a food sterilisation process
11. Regularly
12. Witty, often ironic remark
13. Exploited, used to one’s advantage
14. British group who reached #4 in 2005 with Wires
15. Exploited, used to one’s advantage
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SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.
BIGGA National
Championship 2012

Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £95 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name ..........................................................
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Post Code ..........................
Mobile ........................................................
E-mail ........................................................
Membership No. ...........................................
Handicap ....................................................
BIGGA Section ...........................................
Golf Club ....................................................

Payment method (please tick)

- I enclose my cheque made payable to BIGGA Ltd value £95
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £95

Card number ..............................................
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Start Date .......................... Expiry Date ............
Last 3 security digits ............................... Issue No. (Switch/Delta only) ....................
Signature ....................................................
Date ........................................................

Deadline for entry is 11th September 2012.

Completed entry forms should be sent to: BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play.

If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.

BIGGA members during the 2010 National Championship

Deadline for entry is

Fill in the form below to book your spot

Visit the club westite at www.theirvinegolfclub.co.uk

BIGGA National Championship 2012, The Irvine Golf Club, October 8-9 • Entry Form
BIGGA National Championship 2012

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Signature ....................................................
Date ..........................................................

Or E-mail your details to: rachael@bigga.co.uk
Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

BIGGA National Championship 2012, The Irvine Golf Club, October 8-9 • Entry Form
Intelligent Watering

Intelligent Watering is an all-encompassing water resourcing service whose reputation for delivering a quality service at an economical price is steadily growing.

The company is headed by Adrian Handbury who has been in the irrigation industry since becoming the Irrigation Manager at the London Golf Club in 1992. Since then he has been an irrigation systems designer, a contracts manager for a major irrigation company and advisor to contractors and consultants for major irrigation manufacturers.

Intelligent Watering now has several associates, and so has the ability to deal with several contracts which will all receive their full attention.

Current clients of Intelligent Watering include several Premiership and High Profile Football Clubs, Festival Sites, Agricultural and Sporting Estates, Championship Golf Courses and Religious Organisations. Intelligent Watering excel in the following areas:

- Irrigation system survey, overview and recommendations
- Irrigation system design
- Water resourcing and storage including reservoir construction
- GPS Surveying for irrigation
- GPS Surveying of land use enabling correct chemical / dressing / fertilizer application
- All work is undertaken from the perspective of the end-user through practical knowledge and in full consultation with the client and/or end-user.
- For more information please contact Intelligent Watering on +44 (115) 9890449 or irrigation@intelligentwatering.co.uk

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Watering your “garden”

Graeme Francis, Sports Sales Manager, at Revabo UK, shares his take on the latest drought order sweeping the country.

“If you are hosting a national or international event you are exempt, however all other golf courses supplied by the water companies imposing the restrictions, are probably subject to the hose ban”

So here we are again. Water companies have put in place water use restrictions that include watering a “garden” using a hosepipe.

The “garden” in question includes, amongst others “an area of grass used for sports or recreation,” and the term hosepipe appears to cover a plethora of irrigation equipment that can include static and pop-up sprinklers. If you are hosting a national or international event you are exempt; however all other golf courses supplied by the water companies imposing the restrictions, are probably subject to the hose ban.

If your course is irrigated using water from the potable supply and is fed into a storage tank you cannot irrigate. And at the moment there seems little chance that this will change during the 2012 golf course irrigation season. Already we have seen the finger pointing at the golf industry as an example of excess water use implications of poor uniformity of distribution of water, poor sprinkler head efficiency. The use of automatic irrigation systems on golf courses in the UK goes back to the late 1960’s and for many years the turfgrass irrigation industry worked hard to raise design and installation standards by offering training courses focusing on new system provision.

This was extremely successful and many of the industry’s key personnel benefited from the training. Since that time automatic irrigation has become considered an essential management tool by Course Managers.

So is enough been being done today to provide greenkeepers with the knowledge they need to use their systems to the optimum?

There are still some excellent courses being run by respected industry figures for course managers to learn from and prove that having carried out other analytical water use assessments such as an irrigation audit will create a much stronger position when explaining water needs.

The water restrictions of 2012 are another wake-up call for the golf industry. There’s no doubt that the constraints placed on golf courses being run by respected course managers how to use controllers to schedule golf irrigation taking into consideration such factors as plant available water, management of golf courses being run by respected course managers have all the knowledge he or she needs to ensure both that they can get the water that is required and also can optimise its use. Compliance the art of greening up with the science of water management.
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Whitley Bay Golf Course

Course Manager

Whitley Bay Golf Club is a private members club founded in 1890. Situated 2 miles North of the seaside town, it enjoys what many believe to be one of the best tests of golf in the North East.

Further information on www.whitleybaygolfclub.co.uk

Due to the retirement of our current Head Greenkeeper on 31st December 2012, applications are invited for the post of Course Manager from suitably qualified and highly motivated candidates who will:

• Be responsible for all aspects of Course Management
• Continue and enhance the current development programme
• Hold relevant industry qualifications
• Possess knowledge of modern machinery and maintenance
• Possess knowledge and ability in Health and Safety Legislation
• Be computer literate with the ability to provide written reports to the Club Committee on budget formulation and management
• Be able to demonstrate leadership and staff management
• Have a proven track record of a high standard of course presentation

Letter of application with CV should be made by post or email before 2nd July to:-

Mr F Elliott, Secretary/Manager,
Whitley Bay Golf Club, Claremont Road,
Whitley Bay, NE26 3UF

Or email whtglfclb@aol.com

Greenkeeper Required

for Private Golf Estate in France

Located approx. 100 KM South of Paris

5 years relevant experience required

Working French beneficial

Attractive Salary and Benefits package available to successful candidate

Applications should be sent to:

ohc@orange.fr

no later than 30 June 2012

Lecturer in Greenkeeping & Golf Course Management

Permanent, Full Time

At Elmwood College we have more than 40 years’ experience in delivering Golf and Greenkeeping Education. The College has state of the art training facilities, including an 18 hole golf course and practice facilities. Melbourne based, but all courses are delivered and assessed against gold standard industry qualification. A variety exists for full time HeL/teaching to suit in the development and delivery of Coursekeeping and Gold Course Management courses.

Applications will demonstrate a sound knowledge of current Coursekeeping and Course Management curricula and be in possession of industry related qualifications. A teaching qualification would be preferably but not a mandatory criteria. Applicants will demonstrate the ability to provide written reports to the Board of Management.

For further details and an application form, please contact 01334 658823 or visit the College website: www.elmwood.ac.uk

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 15 June 2012

Board of Management of Elmwood College is a Scottish Charity, Charity No. SC021190
Whitley Bay Golf Course
Course Manager

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Permanant, Full Time

At Elmwood College we have more than 40 years’ experience in delivering Golf and Greenkeeping Education. The College has state of the art training facilities, including an 18-hole golf course and greenkeeping facilities. We are looking to appoint a Lecturer in Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management to assist in the delivery of high quality, relevant and up to date education to our students.

Applicants will be required to hold a degree in Greenkeeping or a related subject or must hold a recognised NVQ in Greenkeeping level 3 or above. A teaching qualification is essential to assist in the delivery of high quality and relevant education.

Applicants should demonstrate a sound knowledge of current Greenkeeping and Course Management curriculum and be in possession of industry related qualifications. A teaching qualification would be preferable as well as considerable current experience in the industry.

For further details and an application form, please contact 01334 658823 or visit the College website: www.elmwood.ac.uk

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For further information contact Kirstin Black

On 01347 833 832
Or email jill@bigga.co.uk

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Happy days are back again

Some welcome relief has come for many regarding hosepipe bans with exemptions being made in several areas.

Thanks to everyone who contacted HQ to share their concerns and provide useful information to help us address the water issue. We are continuing to work on this, as it is not something that is going to go away.

Access to this vital resource will ultimately be a significant issue for all of us.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, many in the North have seen some long awaited glorious sunshine and with it increased soil temperatures meaning we finally get some good growth and the ability to bring the greens on. Happy days!

In the last few years I have watched with some interest the developments in some regions, where “consultants” have advised golf clubs that they can replace the need for a full time Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper. I’ve resisted the natural urge as a Course Manager to simply decry and criticise this development, but now wish to share some views and observations that I feel are relevant.

The golf course in most instances is the most valuable asset a club has. It is usually the most influential factor in attracting and retaining membership and visitor income to that facility. There are some exceptions, but generally speaking the condition of the course, specifically the main playing areas, greens, fairways, tees, bunkers, all feature heavily in the golfer’s mind when they evaluate their experience, how much they enjoy the game and decide where they will play again.

Most clubs employ or engage a team of people to manage the day-to-day business and to best satisfy the needs of the members and visitors. The Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, the Golf Professional, the Secretary/Manager, and Food and Beverage Managers all apply particular skills and knowledge to their area.

The members are represented in most instances by their committees and appropriate sub-committees who seek to create the policies, strategies and general direction the club will take to best satisfy their membership.

We have all witnessed the increased expectations and standards required by golfers whilst the rise in the number of golf courses and the difficult economic climate have resulted in increased competition for custom. As clubs have struggled to create the necessary income to sustain these increased standards they have started to look closely at how they can cut costs.

This has led many to consider the role of the “consultant” versus, as opposed to alongside, the dedicated Course Manager. They desire to emulate the success of those thriving golf businesses that are objectively agreeing actions to maintain and improve standards at a facility. But compromising on. A “consultant” can be best should be an area that clubs consider carefully how they can achieve their main aims and objectives to book a demonstration or more information or contact:-

amellon@elmwood.ac.uk
07780 995602,
Chairman 2012

Remember if you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me. My best regards, Andrew Mellon Chairman 2012 07780 995602, amellon@elmwood.ac.uk

My best regards, Andrew Mellon
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Chairman’s Word

Happy days are back again

Some welcome relief has come for many regarding hosepipe bans with exemptions being made in several areas.

Thanks to everyone who contacted HQ to share their concerns and provide useful information to help us address the water issue. We are continuing to work on this, as it is not something that is going to go away. Access to this vital resource will ultimately be a significant issue for all of us.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, many in the North have seen some long awaited glorious sunshine and with it increased soil temperatures meaning we finally get some good growth and the ability to bring the greens on. Happy days!

In the last few years I have watched with some interest the developments in some regions, where “consultants” have advised golf clubs that they can replace the need for a full time Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper. I’ve resisted the natural urge as a Course Manager to simply decry and criticise this development, but generally speaking the condition of those thriving golf businesses that are successfully drawing numbers and presenting excellent golfing experiences.

It seems contradictory to me that the product that attracts sufficient business to financially sustain the business. They have access to Group Managers, employed for their expertise, and use consultants appropriately. Yet they recognise the need to have dedicated Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers to ensure that their asset is professionally managed. They recognise the benefit an educated, professionally trained person brings to that operation in ensuring they present that asset to its full potential, making the best use of all the resources available.

They benefit hugely from sharing knowledge, skills, and resources across their facilities, and perhaps this is the area clubs should be considering when looking to become more effective, get better returns on their investment, and manage their costs.

BIGGA is working hard to ensure you have the very best support, resources, education and training, and to enable you to share your achievements and difficulties with one another.

BIGGA is working hard to ensure that Greenkeepers have at their disposal the very best support, resources, education and training and to provide opportunities to share with one another their successful achievements and their difficulties. All this is of great benefit to golf clubs and ultimately the golfer. We receive and welcome the support of the other golfing bodies and they also recognise the significant role the Greenkeepers play in presenting the courses on which this great game is played.

I’d ask all golf clubs to consider very carefully how they can achieve their main asset’s full potential and in doing so give themselves the best chance of being successful.

Remember if you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me.

My best regards,
Andrew Mellon
Chairman 2012
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amelon@elmwood.ac.uk

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