BIGGA Member to Ride in Aid of Prostate Cancer Research

Berkhamsdtad Golf Club’s, Myles Wood, is to undertake the Wiggle Dragon Ride, an arduous 78 mile cycle ride, in Wales in aid of prostate cancer research.

“My goal is to make £500 and I’ve been building up my training steadily. It currently includes regular weekly rides ranging from 13km - 65km with varying speed and time targets dependant on distance, I am also utilising a roller mechanism so I can continue with training indoors on a day to day basis,” said Myles.

“During the coming weeks heading up to the ride I have scheduled a training programme, which will increase in intensity and distances leading up to the event date. I have also entered two other ‘sportive’ events, which will offer an ideal opportunity for me to accustom myself to this type of distance riding, having only started riding last year.”

Prostate Cancer is the most common form of male cancer. Treatment options and prognosis depend on the stage of the cancer, the patient’s age and general health.

With greater public awareness, early detection is on the rise and mortality rates are declining.

Additionally, new advances in medical technology are enabling cancer patients to return to active and productive lives after their treatment.

For more information or to donate to Myles’ attempt visit: http://mylenwoodwigledragonride2012.

Conference Update

BIGGA MIDLAND REGION CONFERENCE

AT FRILFORD HEATH GOLF CLUB

29th MARCH 2012

Thirteen delegates from across the UK took and successfully passed the newly introduced BASI Foundation Award (Amenity Horticulture) Course during HTIME. The three day course and exam were sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, with support from Everris and Syngenta.

The training was held as part of the BIGGA Member to Ride in Aid of Prostate Cancer Research.

‘I love my job and I want to help others to enjoy it too. The BIGGA offer a great training scheme to help, and I am really grateful for it,’ said the new Administrator of the Register.

Jeff retired from STRI two years ago after being a consultant agronomist for 43 years. He was one of the founder members of RIPTA and has been Administrator of the Register in the past.

“Now that I have more spare time in my retirement, I hope that some of this time can be given to promoting and developing RIPTA both nationally and internationally,” said Jeff.

The Register was formed in 2002 to provide a source of agronomic consultancy of the highest standard and was widely welcomed in the sports turf industry. Many Sports Governing Bodies, funding organisations, as well those involved in sports turf management, now refer to RIPTA as their source of agronomic expertise.

Consultants on the Register:

• Must hold a recognised first degree or MSc in plant or earth science.

• Consultants’ recent experience must include at least four years post-graduate experience as a full-time, independent turfgrass agronomist.

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• Consultants’ other business activities will not conflict with their ability to provide advice and Consultants with other business interests need to show the major part of the income derived from turf consultancy.

For further information about RIPTA visit www.ripta.co.uk

New Administrator for RIPTA Register

At their recent meeting in Harrogate, RIPTA (The Register of Independent Professional Turfgrass Agronomists) elected Jeff Perrin as the new Administrator of the Register.

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Training Event For Senior Toro Distributors

Toro University, a training event for senior Toro distributors, was held in the UK at the Wyboston Lakes Training and Conference Centre.

Attended by over 50 representatives from Toro’s distributors across Europe and the Middle East, each delegate was given a thorough technical update and introduction to all the latest models in the Toro portfolio as well as an insight into all the improvements that continue to evolve the Toro range.

Seventeen products featured over the two days, over half them being brand new models introduced over the past 12 months.

Toro’s Chris Cooper commented, “Toro University gives us the chance to present new products to our global distributor network. With so many products having been, and still being introduced, this year’s event has been a fantastic opportunity for education and learning about all the exciting new products particularly as it was just before the Golf Show.”

LAWNS FOR YOU

Well known Scottish greenskeeper, Duncan Gray, has launched a new internet based lawn care business, Lawns For You, with the aim of having a network of greenskeepers around the country to provide a quality service to home owners and bowling greens.

“The principle intention is to have greenskeepers, who are employed at golf clubs but are looking for extra work,” explained Duncan.

“I have a number of local lawn care companies coming on board, but to cover the country I would really like to have greenskeepers willing to work part time, either with their own equipment or hired equipment, who I can call on to cover work in their own area,” added Duncan, who has over 30 years experience in the industry and designed and managed The Pines Golf Centre in Dunfermline as well as being Superintendent at Loughinch, in Ireland among other courses.

For further information visit www.lawnforu.co.uk

FIRST CANDIDATES PASS AMENITY FOUNDATION AWARD

FOR FURTHER DETAILS...

See Diary of Events Page 55

GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe

Please email scott@bigga.co.uk with your news items

MARCH 2012
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The training was held as part of the Continue to Learn education programme that ran alongside the Exhibition. Dr Ruth Mann from STRI ran the three day training course covering all areas of product management, including application, weed, disease and pest identification and biology and the need for protecting the environment.

The delegates were: Chris Drewery; Paul Cupsey; Alex Hawkes; Craig Earnshaw; Ben Adkins; Jim Brown; Angus Macleod; David Lovejoy; Rob Worcester; Angus Fraser; Ian Pullen; Nicola Coupar-Marshal and Andy Baker.

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My Rugby World Cup Experience
by Peter Larter
(BIGGA Regional Administrator)

Early last year I was invited by Rugby World Cup Organising Committee to officiate as a Citing Commissioner at the 2011 Rugby World Cup Tournament taking place in New Zealand.

It took me about five seconds to respond and say that I was prepared to go providing I could get time off work! So I was very grateful to the BIGGA Board for allowing me to take nearly two months unpaid leave to enable me to participate.

On Sunday, September 4, I took the 24 hour flight to Auckland with Air New Zealand and landed in the early hours of Tuesday morning, September 6.

My qualifications for undertaking this task are that many years ago I played international rugby for England in the Second Row and am reckoned to know a bit about foul play! I have also been carrying out citing duties for the past 11 years in the Aviva Premiership, the European Rugby Cup, the 6 Nations Championship and also the Rugby World Cup in France in 2007.

The disciplinary team for the RWC comprised six Citing Commissioners (CCs), one from Ireland, one from New Zealand, one from Australia, one from Scotland, one from Italy and myself from England; six Judicial Officers from around the world and the RWC Administrative Staff from Dublin.

Our task as CCs was to watch each match live in the Sky TV Studios in Auckland and take action on any foul play which we thought warranted sending off (i.e. Red Card), and which had been either missed by the match officials or, in our opinion, had not been penalised correctly.

On arrival on September 6 2011 we wasted no time in acclimatising. That afternoon we met with the Match Commissioners who were going to be our eyes, ears and voices at the many venues around New Zealand, and the Judicial Officers who were to chair the disciplinary hearings resulting from a sending off or a citing by the CC. We also received our allocation of matches; one CC per match. I was allocated nine matches and was to be the CC for the first match New Zealand vs Tonga at Eden Park, the venue for many matches including the semi-finals, the 3rd place play-off and the RWC Final. I ended up with nine matches; my last match being semi-final between New Zealand and Australia. Thankfully the first match went off without incident, and I found that the system set up by Sky was brilliant. At each venue there would be anything from 10 to 24 cameras, depending on the size of the venue and importance of the match.

We watched the match as broadcast to the world and had an audio link to the referee. We were able to obtain all angles of any incident fed over the internet within an hour of the end of the match, and we were able to review any incident that caused concern and decide whether or not any foul play had been committed; we were able to view incidents at normal speed, slow-motion, super-slow motion and freeze-frame by frame. If a citing was required, we had to prepare a detailed report and send it together with DVD evidence to the RWC Disciplinary Officer, when a hearing would be convened. Players had to travel to Auckland for hearings and, if found guilty, would usually be banned from playing for a period of time depending on the seriousness of the offence. In total there were 13 citings in the 2011 Rugby World Cup Tournament and all were upheld.

I had one citing and had a number of near misses; I had to cite the Italian hooker Ghiraldini for “interference with the eyes” and he was banned for 15 weeks.

During my stay in Auckland I had the opportunity to visit Eden Park on many occasions, one of which enabled me to meet Mark Perham, the Head Groundsman. Mark had previously been a golf greenkeeper at golf clubs in Timaru in the South Island. He gave me a tour of the Stadium and explained how it was used to provide a test venue for both rugby and cricket. For cricket, what happens is that the lower stands are mechanically withdrawn until the playing area becomes oval shaped. Then they drop a couch grass playing strip into a metal well in the centre of the ground, which is playable for six to eight days, and is a good enough surface for test and provincial matches. Eden Park is the only stadium to host two Rugby World Cup finals; New Zealand won the World Cup in 1987 when they defeated France, repeating the feat in 2011. The Eden Park area of Auckland has been in use as a sports venue for nearly 110 years, being first the home to Auckland cricket from 1910 and then Auckland rugby from 1925.

We had more spare time during October after the pool matches had been finished, which gave us many opportunities to see the magnificent scenery New Zealand has to offer. The local New Zealanders were great hosts and I don’t think anyone begrudged them their narrow victory over France in the final. Once again, my thanks are extended to the BIGGA Board of Directors for allowing me the time to participate in this wonderful event.

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P.J. Larter
**BARENBRUG APPOINT NEW R&D MANAGER**

Barenbrug has appointed Dr. David Greenfield as its new Research and Development Manager. The appointment follows the departure of Jayne Leyland, who has left for pastures new after 13 years with the Bury St Edmunds-based business. Boasting a Master’s degree in Environmental Biology from St Andrews University in Scotland and a PhD in Plant Genetics from Edinburgh University, David has strong technical and practical knowledge across golf, sports and amenity applications.

“I’m delighted to take on the responsibility for our research and development programme. Having been very heavily involved in our Scottish trials programme, as well as having a special responsibility for developing the racenyme sector, I’m looking forward to transferring my work, knowledge and enthusiasm to the whole of the UK,” said David. MD, Paul Johnson, added, “Barenbrug has made a significant ongoing investment in this programme and we’re excited to see how it evolves under David’s direction. “Jayne contributed a great deal to its success and will be sorely missed – I’d like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her the very best for the future.”

**Event Update**

This year’s South West and South Wales Regional BIGGA Golf Management Competitions, sponsored by TACIT, will be taking place at three venues. South Coast Section Event at Liphook Golf Club on Wednesday, June 20; South Wales Valley Event at Newport Golf Club, Gwent on Thursday, June 21; South West Section Event at Bewdley Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort, Clive, Worcestershire on Wednesday, August 15. This team event consists of four players and must include either the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper. The other members may be chosen from the GC Secretary or Manager, the Chairman of the Green, Member of the Greens Committee or GC Committee, the Club or Vice Captain.

Entry forms will be sent to golf clubs in each of the three sections that should be completed by August 15 and returned to register your interest please contact Jane Bugg @ BIGGA on 07841948110, 01454 270850 or e-mail jane@bigga.co.uk

**Meeting the challenges**

This last month since BTME at Harrogate has been very busy at work and in my duties to BIGGA. A nice dry spring has allowed us to progress well with the continued improvements at Elmers Golf Course, building new bunkers, at our 18th green, and landscaping areas around our entrance way. Students have been heavily involved at all levels, learning the importance of all aspects, eg. planning, resources, effective execution, evaluation, and communication. Preparing the course for another season is also top of the agenda.

In a similar vein, BIGGA work continues. The staff have met to evaluate BTME 2012; the members have also been surveyed online and findings will be discussed at the March Board meeting. The Board and the Chief Executive met in early February to continue work on the Strategy and Business plan. This will also be advanced at the March Board meeting.

I attended the FEGGA conference with the CEO in Prague, Czech Republic. The hospitality of the Czech Greenkeeping Association was warm, friendly and extremely well organised. It was good to meet representatives from so many of our European Associations and to hear about the issues affecting them and to discuss potential solutions to address them. We were invited to attend the Board meeting, and we took the opportunity to represent the views of BIGGA members. We will continue to press for more involvement in order to ensure BIGGA members are represented in the work FEGGA undertakes and can make an appropriate contribution, alongside all the Associations of Europe to our mutual benefit.

I’m just back from the Golf Industry Show hosted by GCSCA in Las Vegas. We had many meetings with our counterparts, to discuss how to help our members. Bob Randquist (President), Rhett Evans (CEO) and The Board took time to meet with us and I’m pleased to report that we have formally aligned a Strategic Agreement with GCSCA which will strengthen both Associations and enable us to advance our missions and promote cooperation and goodwill between our members.

Opportunities for successful collaboration exist in the specific areas:

- Annual education conferences and trade shows
- Support from industry vendors, sponsors and partners
- Professional development and education, and recognition of qualifications/awards
- Commitment to sustainability
- Membership products, services and information

This is a great opportunity to ensure that we can share good practise, and the spirit and goodwill which was shown to us during this visit gives me confidence that this work will bring real benefit to our members. Our staff will be working together to see how they can best implement these opportunities and we will communicate this to you in due course.

GCSCA has at its heart, the same as BIGGA; passionate, professional and dedicated members and staff, for whom the camaraderie of a Professional Association provides a network through which we can constantly strive to improve, gain support when necessary, and share our experiences for the benefit of others. I was very proud to witness this professionalism demonstrated by our very own Bernhard’s experience for the benefit of others. I was very proud to witness this professionalism demonstrated by our very own Bernhard’s involvement and the views of BIGGA’s members. We were invited to attend the Board meeting, and we took the opportunity to represent the views of BIGGA members. We will continue to press for more involvement in order to ensure BIGGA members are represented in the work FEGGA undertakes and can make an appropriate contribution, alongside all the Associations of Europe to our mutual benefit.

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The economic climate has brought about the latest challenge we face, and this has led to a greater understanding that golf must be sustainable in the true sense of the word. Golf courses were developed in increasingly diverse terrain and climate conditions the challenges grew and our profession adapted to cope with these challenges. Many lessons have been learned with tens of thousands of courses being built in the established golf markets. Such vast knowledge, skills and experience has great value and we need to ensure it is shared. The economic climate has brought about the latest challenge we face, and this has led to a greater understanding that golf developments and maintenance practices must be sustainable in the true sense of the word. This is a vitally important area in which we can all learn from one another, and will be at the forefront of collaborations we seek.

The future of the game of golf depends on growing the game, in a way that it is recognised as a responsible part of the community. Golf can be a leader in sus-