Oly Browning is victorious at the BIGGA National Championship

ALSO... HERBICIDES : DAY IN THE LIFE : DISEASE CONTROL
Jacobsen offers so many parts to love. Whether it’s the comfortable seat and smooth ride, the ease of maintenance and simple diagnostics, or the advanced controls and superior quality-of-cut, the LF550/570 series of light fairways mowers from Jacobsen offers so many parts to love.

A champion autumn

Congratulations to Oly Browning of Stocks Golf Club in Hertfordshire on becoming the BIGGA National Champion at Irvine Golf Club recently.

Derek Wilson and his team presented the golf course beautifully for the Championship and we are very grateful to Kubota and Charterhouse for their generous sponsorship of the event.

I really enjoy attending the National Championship and having the chance to spend time with so many members who are passionate about playing the game. Frilford Heath Golf Club in Oxfordshire has kindly agreed to host the event in 2013 and I very much look forward to seeing who will take Oly’s crown.

Congratulations also to Curtis Tyrrell MG and his team for preparing the Medinah No. 3 course for what turned out to be one of the most exciting and memorable Ryder Cup Matches ever.

Having coped with fifty straight days of temperatures in the 90s during the Chicago summer, Curtis put in to action a plan to bring the course in to the immaculate condition the players found when they arrived and was maintained throughout the week. Within these pages is a review of the event from the course maintenance standpoint.

As I write this piece the leaves on the trees around BIGGA House have turned beautiful shades of yellow and red. As I write this piece the leaves on the trees around BIGGA House have turned beautiful shades of yellow and red. As I write this piece the leaves on the trees around BIGGA House have turned beautiful shades of yellow and red.

November traditionally marks the start of the education season for BIGGA with many of our Sections holding a variety of excellent seminars and conferences over the coming months and of course the Continue to Learn programme at BTME in January is the centrepiece of our Learning and Development schedule. Bookings have been good for Harrogate so don’t delay in reserving your place at the Turf Managers Conference or the wide ranging array of workshops and seminars.

Four of our Regions are holding their annual Conferences during November, by the time you read this the Midland and Northern Region events will have taken place and there are details of the South East and South West & South Wales Regional events elsewhere in this magazine.

These Conferences are a great opportunity not just to learn more about the technicalities of golf course management but also to network with your peers and interact with the many supporters from the trade who support the events. I hope you take the time to attend your Region’s event. Enjoy the read.

FOR A LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE ON YOUR COURSE, CALL 01473 270000

www.ransomesjacobsen.com

Nov 2012

© 2012 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited
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The dust is starting to settle around Medinah. Not only have the massive crowds, contractors and structures started to disappear, it finally rained a bit to clear all the dust!

I found it funny talking with Jim McKenzie as his Ryder Cup was beyond wet, and ours was a dust bowl! Anyway, everything is different now. For five years I looked at the turf with September 2012 in mind. Now it’s different. Now we’re looking back on what was truly the best of week of my career. I would say it was the best week of my life, but my honeymoon and kids will always take that prize. I had many thoughts, ideas, and expectations for the Ryder Cup. They all came true in their own unique way, and all things leading up to, during, and after, exceeded my expectations. I have no regrets.

I wouldn’t change a thing. It was simply unbelievable and I still have adrenaline flowing through me as a result.

There were many highlights. Meeting the many volunteers that proceeded to work their butts off all week for us was certainly a part of it all that I will never forget. I mean guys just simply dropped it all, and gave 100% running flymos, raking bunkers, hand watering, and mowing! I wasn’t sure how this volunteer program was going to go. But to see what happened was humbling and inspiring. We will always be grateful to each of them, and hope we get to repay the favour in the future!

My team blew me away that week. We have been striving for that one moment for so long, and their execution, management, and professionalism stood apart. I couldn’t be more proud of them and what they accomplished.

Managing the turf through the week was so much fun. The weather was finally in our favour and we basically did whatever was necessary to provide what was asked of us. There were no worries - and best of all, the turf is better today than it was that week. Trying to hide from the European contingent of our team (including Steve Chappell and Lee Strutt) when we were stimping greens was a lot of fun - just kidding of course! Green speeds and the general ball roll was something I was really proud of that week. I thought we delivered what Davis Love III asked, and then some. Too bad our guys got skiddish on the greens when your guys were rolling!

Now that it’s over I really only have one thing to say...Let’s do it again! C’mon we’re ready! Remark! On a serious note, I would do it again, 100 times over. It was beyond the definition of fun. I wish it were starting again tomorrow.

Leading figures from across the golf industry paid tribute to the course, which had been expertly prepared by Master Greenkeeper Curtis and his team.

Martin Kaymer, whose winning putt has already passed into sporting legend, said: “It was set up perfect for match play and the greens were really fantastic.”

Kerry Haigh, the PGA of America’s Managing Director of Championships and Business Development, said: “Curtis Tyrrell and his staff did an outstanding job at Medinah prior to and during the 39th Ryder Cup.

“They had no deal with an extremely hot summer with record temperatures that had its effect on the conditioning of the fairways and greens.

“However, Curtis put together a plan to bring the course back into Championship condition once the weather broke, in late August. With this plan he was able to bring the course back in what you could see in person and on television to showcase not only the outstanding talents of the best players in the world of golf but also to show what a truly great golf course Medinah really is.

“The tees, fairways, roughs, greens and bunkers were all beautifully prepared and allowed the course and the players to showcase their skills.

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Lee Strutt, Course Manager at G West and a member of the support team for the tournament, gives us a greenkeeper’s eye view of his week in Chicago.

My Ryder Cup adventure started in 2011 when I got to know Curtis Tyrrell and I applied to join the support team. During a visit to the GIS show at Las Vegas in February this year, he confirmed I was on the list of support crew along with Steve Chappell from Glen eagles (home of the 2014 Ryder Cup). So, on Saturday 22 September we left Glen eagles at 4am for Chicago and got to our hotel at around midnight UK time.

Even though we were tired, the lure of Chicago’s lights couldn’t stop us enjoying a beer or two at the local Irish bars which are at the heart of the city’s rich history.

Sunday afternoon we headed to Medinah Country Club for the first time. It was amazing to see the scale of the event in person.

Curtis took time out to give us a guided tour, explaining how he had dealt with some of the issues they’d had this extremely hot summer. On Monday we viewed the last minute preparations and received our uniforms and schedule for the week.

There were approximately 90 full time staff as well as 109 volunteers during the week – meaning a lot of organisating and scheduling.

We then had the opportunity to get to know the 104 superintendents and assistants from all over the US.

There were just four of us from Europe and one ex-pat – so we knew if Europe won we might be a bit outnumbered on the cheering front.

From Tuesday onwards we carried out many different preparation duties including bunker maintenance, hand watering, raking, green trimming, hand blowing… and polishing sprinkler heads! During Thursday onwards, once morning setup had taken place, we were unable to get back to the maintenance facility due to the large crowds of spectators.

So we were held back for a while until the surrounding highway was shut so that we could drive in convoy back along the main highway to the maintenance facility. It was some spectacle – a convoy of 30 to 40 golf vehicles towing blowers, rollers and crew with spectators waving as we went past.

Friday morning, the pressure started to mount, there was less banter and more focus as this was the first day of the actual event. The first day’s play ended with the US 5-3 up.

It was great that things had got off to an exciting start and the course was performing just how Curtis had planned.

One of the most amazing things was hearing so many people cheering the matches, it is one hell of a thing to hear 65,000 people cheering all at once!

Saturday’s preparation followed a similar plan to Friday’s, and the US ended the day 10-6 up.

Sunday saw the start of one of the most amazing days in Ryder Cup history, where the European underdogs came back as a team to regain their reputation and to be standing there for the third biggest sporting event in the world.

It was amazing to have been a part of the preparations and maintenance of the course and to be standing there witnessing the penultimate game clinch the Ryder Cup. It was an amazing gesture by Curtis to ensure that we could celebrate our win for as long as we wanted that evening and he joined us in the celebrations.

That will be one lasting memory of the event, a very hard working man, his team and his family had spent the last five years living the dream and preparing his golf course for the third biggest sporting event in the world.

The Europeans had won, but he stood to the end with us to celebrate the best team in the world.

He is a remarkable man, a true professional, and a true friend. To those that look at these events and wish to take part - I can only encourage you to take every opportunity to get involved, even though I spent a fair bit of cash!

I can certainly say that I hope it won’t be my last Ryder Cup.

Opportunities Abroad for Young Greenkeepers – Part 2

IEPUK Ltd is a not-for-profit educational organisation which co-ordinates international exchange programmes in over 35 countries. This Autumn IEPUK has been asked by WISE (Worldwide International Student Exchange) to find 300 young people in the UK to fill placements starting next spring on PGA level golf courses from Florida to New York.

Vanessa Peach, director of IEPUK, spoke about the benefits of doing an internship overseas as an unbeatable life-experience and a potential job clincher.

“Opportunities are not for everyone but if a young person wants to boost their career prospects gaining international experience will certainly help them to stand out from the crowd.”

“Most importantly, every intern is investing in their future, not only through the work skills they will gain but life skills too.

An internship will suit a young, outgoing and motivated individual, who likes a challenge and works hard but has fun too.

The important thing is for them to live the dream and come back with enthusiasm, having achieved their goal and done something that many of their peers will not have done – plus they’ll have been paid! They will also have made new friends and valuable business contacts.”

Accommodation is included plus a monthly stipend of $1,100 that will more than cover programme, visa and flight expenses as well as pay for a holiday at the end of the placement before returning home.

The internships will last up to ten months starting in February and March 2013. The same programme will run in 2014 and if anyone is interested for 2013 or 2014 contact: Emily@iepuk.com.
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A remarkable man, a true professional, and now a friend.

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GI LEADS THE WAY REPORTING CHALARA DIESBACK

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The final of the BIGGA Golf Management Competition took place on 15 October at Frilford Heath GC in Oxfordshire. For the second year TACIT sponsored the whole competition and BIGGA would like to thank them for their support of the Association and its members in sponsoring this competition.

Section qualifying events took place during the summer and eight teams went through to the final. TACIT had chosen Frilford Heath Golf Club for the final and it proved a superb venue with the course in excellent condition.

The teams of four players which were made up of members of the club management together with their Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager played an 18 hole stableford competition on the Red Course after which players sat down to a three course dinner. The winning team won a set of 20 hole cups and 20 flag pins for their course together with the trophy and there were club prises for the second third and fourth places together with individual team prises and nearest the pin and longest drive prises.

Pictured here is the winning team from Buckingham GC who won the competition with 82 points, in second place was Mendip GC with 80 points, third Bloomsbury GC with 79 points and fourth Newport GC with 72 points. The nearest the pin prize was won by Tony Thomas from Morrisston GC and the Longest Drive prize was won by Steve Rawlings from Mendip Gold Club.

Arnold Phipps-Jones

News SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE

Buck to Basics Clinches Title

Major national newspapers and TV reported the story about chalara dieback in October – a full month after it appeared in Greenkeeper International. The Daily Mail, The Telegraph and The Guardian all reported on the threat from the fungus to the nation’s ash tree population.

It also appeared on ITV news and became one of the most popular stories on the BBC website – but on Sunday morning we appeared around the globe in De’erry Malbett’s article in our September edition. The warning entitled ‘Native Common Ash Trees Face Surprise Disease Threat’, broke the news about the potentially devastating alien plant pathogen which had arrived in the UK. It had been project all along dealing with its “unprecedented threat”.

Keep an eye on Greenkeeper International for the exclusives!
Greenkeepers are being urged to support the annual ‘Movember’ charity drive – and put themselves in with the chance of winning a fabulous trip to New York.

British Seed Houses (BISH) has joined forces with movember.com to support men’s health charities such as Prostate Cancer UK and the Institute of Cancer Research. All you have to do is email a clean shaven picture of yourself taken on 1 November to seeds@blish.co.uk or tweet them to @shavenmour or @blishcommunity together with a front page of a daily newspaper to authenticate the date.

Then email or tweet the end result on November 30 – and the winner will scoop a fabulous trip to New York.

Contact Details
Tony Smith
07988 838956
tony.smith48@ntlworld.com
Success for Sussex

Keith Weller and his team produced a superbly presented golf course with some lively paced greens after heavy overnight rain for the annual triangular match between the Essex, Surrey and Sussex Sections of BIGGA at Lingfield Park Golf Club.

This year after a closely contested match the ten men of Sussex finished the strokefield held by Surrey over recent years of the event by a winning margin of just three points with Essex finishing a close third. Nearest the pin winners on the day were Simon Cooke and George Barr, with Antony Kieran taking the longest drive. Lingfield Park, like BIGGA, are celebrating 25 years since the formation of their Club.

We are grateful to Ernest Doe for their continued support of this popular event.

REMUNERATION 2013

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries (CGCS) have recommended a 1.5% increase in the level of recommended Scale for Greenkeepers.

This increase is less than the 2.5% RPI rate normally adopted as the Committee accepts that the current year has been a very difficult one for Golf Clubs and the continued strain on their finances.

The CGCS recommended rates of pay package are guidelines only and the Committee is aware that they are for negotiation only and that, as in many industries, some staff will earn substantially more, while others will earn less, depending on the standing of the golf club. The CGCS wants to emphasise that these scales are for ‘packages’ and should be treated as such, whilst taking into account individual and team performance and any increase in responsibility and/or qualification.

The CGCS, once again, wishes to draw the attention of golf clubs to impending changes in pension legislation. Regional variations will be published and downloadable in PDF format from the BIGGA and GCMA websites from December onwards.

GREENKEEPERS ARE URGED TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL ‘MOVEMBER’ CHARITY DRIVE – AND PUT THEMSELVES IN WITH THE CHANCE OF WINNING A FABULOUS TRIP TO NEW YORK.

British Seed Houses (BSH) has joined forces with movember.com to support men’s health charities such as Prostate Cancer UK and the Institute of Cancer Research.

All you have to do is email a clean shaven picture of yourself taken on 1 November to seeds@bshlincoln.co.uk or tweet them to @seedsbsh using #movember. The winner will be chosen at random and will receive an all-expenses paid trip to New York including flights and accommodation for a weekend in November.

BSH have shown their grassroots support by growing a giant moustache in support of the men’s health charity.

The giant Movember was grown by Andrew Cook, the South Wales and South Essex finishing a close third. Nearest the pin winners on the day were Simon Cooke and George Barr, with Antony Kieran taking the longest drive. Lingfield Park, like BIGGA, are celebrating 25 years since the formation of their Club.

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SUPPORT ‘MOVEMBER’ AND WIN A TRIP TO NEW YORK

BIGGA National Chairman, Tony Smith, writes with his regular update

Chairman’s Word

BIGGA National Chairman, Tony Smith, writes with his regular update

European support

Firstly, I’d like to say that the board and I recently enjoyed hosting the Board of the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) at BIGGA House.

We have many members who work in different countries across Europe and there are many areas that affect greenkeeping that are governed by the European Union.

It is therefore important to BIGGA that FEGGA has our strong support and as the largest association within Europe we do all we can to ensure our members are well represented. As part of our meeting we welcomed the FEGGA board for a joint session which was positive and constructive on both sides.

The level of support from the European Commission is minimal, although I seemed to spend most of the tournament in a bunker on the 18th. I thought I was going to bury myself in the first one, then managed to escape but landed right in another. My misfortune apart, it was a wonderful couple of days.

During the presentation dinner I took the opportunity to mention one subject that I want to be a recurring theme of my time as Chairman and beyond – communication. We all know that course management can be a lonely business at times and when the weather is inclement as it has been this year it can also be quite a thankless task.

At times like these it is vital that we stick together and also make sure we talk regularly with our peers and friends. It’s a cliché to say that a problem shared is a problem halved but there is no doubt that words of support and advice are always welcome.

So I urge all of you to make sure you pick up the phone and give each other a call or a text and share your problems and successes.

On my own course, it’s been very hard work this summer as I know it has been for everyone. We’re working on improving the drainage as the wet weather has highlighted problems in certain areas of the course. We’re also continuing work on the long-term tree management programme.

I was very fortunate to attend the Ryder Cup on behalf of BIGGA – what a fantastic experience. It was a privilege to meet Medinah’s Director of Golf Course Management Curtis Tyrrell and see the knowledge Steve Chappell and Lee Strutt were gaining ahead of the next tournament at Gleneagles. BTME offers a unique opportunity to hear their reflections on a stunning event and share their knowledge – don’t miss out.

As always, I’d be delighted to hear from BIGGA members. I’m available on 07988 838956 or at tony.smith@biggaworld.com.
Learning & Development

Sami Collins, BIGGA Learning & Development Manager, with an update on education seminars.

Wednesday 23rd January

Ecology in Focus - Bob Taylor, STRI

Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop Stage 1 & 2 - Les Howkins/ Kerrian Dalley/Lee Strutt

Working to Increase Nature Without Compromising Golf - Bob Taylor, STRI

Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop Stage 3 - Les Howkins/ Kerrian Dalley/Lee Strutt

So You Want To Be Promoted - Murray Long, Course Manager, Sunningdale GC and Stuart Yarwood, Course Manager, Lyngam GC

Ecology and the Business Working Together - Bob Taylor, STRI

For further information and an up-to-date programme for Continue to Learn, visit www.btme.org.uk/education/seminars

Assistants Development Programme

Following on from last month’s launch, the ‘So You Want To Be Promoted’ sessions continue with the South East Regions’, to be held at Sunningdale Golf Club on Tuesday 22nd November, November. Presented by Murray Long, Sunningdale Golf Club and Matt Piested, Mussel Hill Golf Club. Further details can be found in the events section of the website. This is an exceptional worthwhile event to attend for any greenkeepers wanting to progress in their chosen career and are unsure of the skills they will need.

Library

The library has been offline whilst the selection of books has been updated and re-categorised. Thanks should go to John Deree for their generous donation to the library fund. It has provided the opportunity to remove some of the older books and increase the stock of the more popular ones.

Careers

For those of you who have been using the website recently, you will find the Careers section has changed slightly, with more resources added. You will find information on apprenticeships, grants, minimum wages, links to colleges and other essential websites. Again, John Deree are kindly providing further sponsorship for this section. If you have any suggestions for the careers section, please get in touch.

We are pleased to be able to repeat the tastecard offer exclusively for BIGGA Members (time limited – Friday 9th – Wednesday 28th November)

BIGGA has once again negotiated an exclusive deal with tastecard, the nation’s largest dining club, to give BIGGA members an exclusive discount on annual membership, helping save a fortune when dining out.

A tastecard membership card gives you access to the most incredible deals at over 6,500 dining establishments nationwide. Restaurants range from La Tasca, Pizza Express, Cafe Rouge and GBK to Malmaison and everything in between! Each restaurant featured offers 50% off the total food bill or 2-4-1 on your chosen courses (even for groups of more than two diners in most cases).

BIGGA Members can join for a full year membership at an exclusive BIGGA rate of £29.95 (RRP £79.95). Be quick, as this offer is only available from November 9th to November 28th 2012.

For more catches, it is just a great deal, and an opportunity for ‘all students’ to save a small fortune on eating out over the next 12 months. Stuck for Christmas present ideas, why not treat someone to a tastecard membership, a truly unique gift that will be used all year long, or purchase one for your son/daughter who has gone off to University?

For further information on the tastecard visit www.tastecard.co.uk

Held on Monday 21st January 2013 at The Crown Hotel, Harrogate, Dr Thomas Nielson – ‘The Doctor of Green Speed’ from Michigan State University?

Visit www.btme.org.uk

Uniform Tax Relief – are you eligible for a tax rebate?

If you wear work uniform, whether a simple polo shirt with your logo or full attire like nurses or police officers, and have to wash, repair or replace it yourself you may be reclaiming hundreds of pounds in overpaid tax from the past four years.

Can you answer ‘Yes’ to ALL of the following to be able to claim tax relief?

1. You wear a recognisable uniform that shows you’ve got a certain job, like a branded T-shirt.
2. Your employer requires you to wear it while you’re working.
3. You have to pay to clean, repair or replace it yourself. However, you can’t claim if your employer washes your kit, provides facilities to do so even if you don’t use them or pays you for doing this maintenance.
4. You paid income tax in the year you are claiming for.
5. You have to pay to clean, repair or replace it yourself. If you are claiming for, you must have worn your uniform during a taxable period of at least 12 months.
6. You can only claim for uniforms you have to wear in your job.
7. You wear work uniform, whether a simple polo shirt with your logo or full attire like nurses or police officers, and have to wash, repair or replace it yourself.
8. You were paid income tax in the year you are claiming for.
9. You were paid income tax in the year you are claiming for.
10. You have to pay to clean, repair or replace it yourself.

For details contact the Tracey or Elaine in the membership department for details on how to claim.
As we leave our wonderful (!) summer behind us, let our thoughts turn to training and the BTME in January. By now you will have received our Continue to Learn brochures and are thinking about which seminars to attend. Let us write your appetite with a summary of what to expect.

Continue to Learn

Bookings are coming in thick and fast for the Continue to Learn sessions. The advice is to book early to avoid disappointment! Each month, until BTME, we will focus on a different area of Continue to Learn, providing a brief summary of what is available. This month, it is the turn of the Focus On sessions. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Focus On seminars are designed to provide ‘bite-sized’ learning opportunities which delegates can combine with their visit to the trade show.

The sessions last up to two hours and offer a range of subjects from soil and grass science to updating computer skills.

Tuesday 22nd January

Austerity – Janet Watling, In Step

What’s in a Soil Analysis? – Simon Barnsley

Excel - Essential Calculations for Greenkeepers – Jacky Lowe, Training Gem

Improve Your Powerpoint and Presentations Skills – Jacky Lowe, Training Gem

Managing Difficult Situations – Janet Watling, In Step

Disease identification – Ruth Lean, STRI

Use Microsoft Project to Help Manage and Long Term Project Plans – Jacky Lowe, Training Gem

Participating and Managing Meetings – Janet Watling, In Step

Grass Identification – Andy Newell, STRI

Wednesday 23rd January

Ecology in Focus – Bob Taylor, STRI

Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop Stages 1 & 2 – Les Howkins/Kerrin Daly/Lee Strutt

Working to Increase Nature Without Compromising Golf – Bob Taylor, STRI

Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop Stage 3 – Les Howkins/Kerrin Daly/Lee Strutt

So You Want To Be Promoted – Murray Long, Course Manager, Sunningdale GC and Stuart Varwood, Course Manager, Lympne GC

Ecology and the Business Working Together – Bob Taylor, STRI

For further information and an up-to-date programme for Continue to Learn, visit www.btme.org.uk/education/seminars

Assistants Development Programme

Following on from last month’s launch, the ‘So You Want To Be Promoted’ sessions continue with the South East Region, to be held at Sunningdale Golf Club on Tuesday 29th November, presented by Murray Long, Sunningdale Golf Club and Matt Piece, Mussel Hill Golf Club. Further details can be found in the events section of the website. This is an exceptionally worthwhile event to attend for any greenkeepers wanting to progress in their chosen career and are unsure of the skills they will need.

Library

The library has been offline whilst the selection of books has been updated and re- categorised. Thanks should go to John Deere for their generous donation to the library fund.

It has provided the opportunity to remove some of the older books and increase the stock of the more popular ones.

Careers

For those of you who have been using the website recently, you will find the Careers section has changed slightly, with more resources added.

You will find information on apprenticeships, grants, minimum wages, links to colleges and other essential websites. Again, John Deere are kindly providing resources for this section. If you have any suggestions for the Careers section, please get in touch.

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For more catches, it is just a great deal, and an opportunity for all ‘foodies’ to save a small fortune when dining out.


For more information on this exclusive offer, visit www.tastecard.com/promo-biglii. Offer exclusively for BIGGA Members. Offer expires 28th November 2012.

To access the Tastecard log in to the members area of the BIGGA website, select ‘Member Resources’ from the options on the left hand side, scroll down to Tastecard Information File (TGF) and download the Getting Started guide just click on the link which will give you access to the file directly.

BTME 2013 registration is now open – avoid the queues

Visit the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk

Click on the BTME banner at the top of the page and select REGISTRATION NOW.

Continue to Learn – Discount for BIGGA Members

Continue to Learn, visit www.btme.org.uk, offers a host of seminars and workshops, from 20-23 January 2013. Book now to avoid disappointment.

BIGGA Membership

The membership team reflect on current news and affairs affecting you, the BIGGA member.
Bernhard Opens New Factory and Training Facility

Movers and shakers from across the golf industry attended the grand opening of Bernhard and company’s new factory and training facility – with a former BRGGA chairman doing the honours in unveiling the plaque.

Peter Todd, from the London Golf Club, joined forces with Pat Finlen from the Olympic Club in San Francisco at the event at the hugely impressive new base in Haverhill, Cambridgeshire.

As well as representatives from BRGGA, FGGA and AGCOA various leaders from golf associations across the world travelled down for the historic day – joining other industry figures, course owners and members of the press.

Before lunch, Stephen Bernhard outlined the company’s fascinating history and added how excited he was about the new development.

He said: “We started our business way back in the early 1800s and it’s grown year on year in the same group of ancient Victorian buildings. We really had to expand and upgrade the facilities.

“The training and education side of our business is growing all the time so we needed a dedicated area for that as well as a demonstration area for user and staff training. It’s a massive step for a small British company to make in the global turf industry.

“Despite all the economic challenges that we face as an industry, we move into this building with confidence in the market and we are determined to grow the business.”

Bernhard Manufacturing Manager Shaun McCarthy added: “The building was designed to a very high spec. It is efficient and eco-friendly. It was important for us to have flexible space and it can be adapted which will allow us to adapt to the changing needs of the market.

“We also wanted to incorporate something of our heritage so the reception area reflects a hint of the old Victorian sheds. The effect strikes me most is how modern and comfortable it is, and the working conditions are first-class.”

BLEC show off equipment at Ransomes Jacobsen

Two days of Open House events at Ransomes Jacobsen’s European head office at Ipswich gave BLEC Global the chance to show off some of their aportsturf and landscaping equipment while creating a new trials area for tees and greens.

Gary Mumby, managing director of TILGEC, and demonstrator Tom Bhikha showed a wide range of machines to visiting greenkeepers, groundskeepers, contractors and local authority ground managers.

“We had a tremendous couple of days,” says Gary, “and seeing the machinery in action on the new golf site gave visitors a practical demonstration of capabilities.”

Using Iseki tractors supplied by Ransomes Jacobsen, Gary and Tom prepared and seeded three trial plots with mixed turf including the Blec Laser Seeder, the Smirnoff three-wheel bunker rake, the Blec Box Scarper and the Cutjpack Seeder with Honda ride-on unit.

On the static display they showed the tractor-mounted disc seeder, the 1.5m Multisower, the tractor-mounted Multisowers and the walk-behind power box rake.

The Ipswich tented village featured industry partners such as John Deere, Macdon, New Holland and Trelleborg.

The convention included a behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities, a presentation from the PAV’s award-winning Head Groundsman Alan Ferguson, and a chance to play football on the pitch where the England men’s team will be training this week.

The New Holland Groundcare Convention follows on from a recent deal which has seen New Holland supply the FA with a Boomer 2035, Boomer 3645, T4020 and T4050 to assist with the on-going maintenance of the 12 elite pitches at St George’s Park.

The convention ended with the entire New Holland Groundcare product portfolio was on offer, including the T2 series, Rudder 120 Utility Vehicle, T1560 and T1570, T3000, T4000, T4 Powerstar and T5.

Dick Spencer, New Holland Marketing Manager, commented: “Following the successful launch of our new range of Boomer Compact Tractors, this was the perfect opportunity to show both the New Holland Dealer Network, and groundcare trade press exactly what the new machines can do.”

New Holland Network in at New FA Facility

St George’s Park, the FA’s brand new £105 million training facility, played host to New Holland’s dealer network this month.

New Holland used its Groundcare Convention to showcase the popular range of Boomer Compact Tractors that has been further extended and upgraded with the introduction of six new Boomer models.

This complete Boomer offering now delivers powers spanning 23–51hp with a range of specifications to suit every need.

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“We also wanted to incorporate something of our heritage so the reception area reflects a hint of the old Victorian sheds. The effect works well.”

BGGA vice-chairman Chris Sealey attended and commented: “It’s very, very impressive. What strikes me most is how modern and comfortable it is, and the working conditions are first-class.”

BTME is back for its 24th year at the HIC, 22-24 January 2013

Visit www.btme.org.uk and click the Register Now icon

Dennis and Sisis have held an exhibition focusing not only on their machinery but their vision of the future.

Members of the turf press headed to Bradfords Golf Club, close to the company’s base in Kirk Langley, Derbyshire, to view their range of natural and synthetic turf maintenance equipment.

This also gave certain members the chance to operate some of the machinery – leading to some erratic results on the club’s 18th green!

On the second day of the event, Managing Director Ian Howard led a tour of the impressive factory on site, giving the attendees the benefit of learning the process of building a new machine from the design stage on computer to the construction and delivery.

Customer Manager Roger Moore then explained the ethos behind the firm and their future plans.

New Holland Network in at New FA Facility

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Alongside the new Boomer Compact range, the entire New Holland Groundcare product portfolio was on offer, including the T2 series, Roader 120 Utility Vehicle, T1560 and T1570, T3000, T4000, T4 Powerstar and T5.

Dick Spencer, New Holland Marketing Manager, commented: “Following the successful launch of our new range of Boomer Compact Tractors, this was the perfect opportunity to show both the New Holland Dealer Network and groundcare trade press exactly what the new machines can do.”
Golden Browning

Steve Castle reports from Ayrshire on a glorious BIGGA National Championship 2012, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.

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Oly Browning, assistant greenkeeper at Stocks Golf Club in Hertfordshire, blazed round the formidable links at Irvine Golf Club in Ayrshire to claim the title of BIGGA National Champion 2012.

67 players flocked to the extremely challenging course from as far afield as Ireland and the South Coast all dreaming of glory.

Incredibly, after a miserable summer across the UK, Scotland enjoyed what BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton described as “the best two days of weather imaginable” with unbroken sunshine teaming up with the rolling countryside to provide a breathtaking vista for play.

Theoretically, the tremendous weather should have led to perfect conditions for play – but the course still proved difficult throughout with a number of players posting no returns, mainly due to the heather and gorse waiting to gobble up returns, mainly due to the heather and gorse waiting to gobble up

“With the exception of the mild frost from Jim and BIGGA Chairman Andrew Andrews won the Challenge Cup in the clubhouse.

The excitement grew during the second afternoon as the returning players enjoyed a well-earned drink in the clubhouse. However it soon became clear that overnight leader Oly was in no mood to relinquish his slot at the top of the leaderboard as he 146 enough to win by three shots.

Carnoustie’s Duncan Cairnie and Cathkin Braes’ Gordon Sangster were his nearest challengers on 149 – Duncan claiming the runner-up spot by virtue of a superior second round.

Kenneth Mitchell from St Andrews won the Challenge Cup for best nett score over 36 holes)

BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY (Best gross score over 36 holes)

1) Oly Browning (Stocks) 146 (71, 75) - £100 prize
2) Duncan Cairnie (Carnoustie) 149 (75, 74) - £50 prize
3) Gordon Sangster (Cathkin Braes) 149 (74, 75) - £25 prize

BIGGA CHALLENGE CUP (Best nett score over 36 holes)

1) Kenneth Mitchell (St Andrews) 141 (70, 71) - £100 prize
2) Gary Burgess (Grange Park) 145 (70, 75) - £50 prize
3) George Morgan (The Mendip) 153 (73, 78) - £25 prize

BIGGA CHALLENGE PLATE (Stableford)

1) David Nelson (Nelson & Vecchio) - £50 prize

BIGGA CHALLENGE BOWL (Affiliate)

David Nelson (Nelson & Vecchio) - £50 prize

DAILY HANDICAP - DAY 1

-1 6- 12 David Nelson (Nelson & Vecchio) 71
+1 13- 24 John Wilson (Irvine) 73

DAILY HANDICAP - DAY 2

-2 5 Gary Burgess (Grange Park) 70
+1 12 John Wilson (Irvine) 72
+1 13- 24 John Wilson (Irvine) 76
BIGGA National Championship 2012

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But they were delighted by the challenge, and hugely impressed by the quality of the course – indeed Head Greenkeeper Derek Wilson and his team were overwhelmed with congratulations.

Oly Browning, from Bricken- don Grange Golf Club, said: “The course is absolutely gorgeous, it’s in fantastic condition. Everything about it is superb. The greens are brilliant. If you don’t hole a putt it’s your fault!”

Gavin Robson, from Burton-on-Trent Golf Club, said: “It’s an awesome course, the greens are beautiful and true. It’s a true heathland golf course and a true test of your golf. You can’t stray off line because if you do, you’re in the heather and you’re in trouble.”

However it soon became clear that overnight leader Oly was in no mood to relinquish his slot at the top of the leaderboard as his 75 ensured a memorable victory – a gross score of 146 enough to win by three shots.

Carnoustie’s Duncan Cairnie and Cathkin Braes’ Gordon Sangster were his nearest challengers on 149 – Duncan claiming the runner-up spot by virtue of a superior second round.

Kenneth Mitchell from St Andrews won the Challenge Cup for best nett score over 36 holes.

The excitement grew during the second afternoon as the returning players enjoyed a well-earned drink in the clubhouse.

“Playing alright on the first day, not so well on the second. I don’t think I had any advantage knowing the course – there are too many bushes on it which I found!”

But the real highlight for me has been the camaraderie. It’s a great opportunity to catch up with old colleagues and also meet new people from across the industry.”

As the sun set on a hugely successful tournament, thoughts turned to next year’s venue - Prifcredit Heath Golf Club in Oxfordshire. Keep an eye out for how to enter in forthcoming issues – it’s a competition not to be missed.

“Thanks to Derek Wilson, his team, everyone at Irvine Golf Club and all the competitors who flew or drove vast distances to play. “

“Trent Golf Club, said: “It’s an awe- some course, the greens are beauti- ful and true. It’s a true heathland golf course and a true test of your golf. You can’t stray off line because if you do, you’re in the heather and you’re in trouble.”

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BIGGA CHALLENGE PLATE (Stableford)
1) Sam Fuller (Lewes) - £50 prize

BIGGA CHALLENGE BOWL (Affiliates)
David Nelson (Nelson & Vecchio) - £50 prize

DAILY HANDICAP - DAY 1
-2 - 5 Gary Burgess (Grange Park) 70
6 - 12 David Nelson (Nelson & Vecchio) 71
-3 - 24 John Wilson (Irving) 73

DAILY HANDICAP - DAY 2
-2 - 5 Kenneth Mitchell (St Andrews) 71
-6 - 12 Ian Harrington 72
-3 - 24 John Wilson (Irving) 76
**Bio-inspired explosive performance**

The exciting new fungicide inspired by nature. **Contact** action delivers fast knockdown of Fusarium in leaf and thatch along with outstanding long-lasting protection.

Visit www.greencast.co.uk for more information.

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**Medallion TL®**

**Syngenta.**

**60 Year guarantee**

**Maintenance free.**

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**Built to last forever**

InfraCore Golf Bridge at Arnold Palmer’s Bay Hill Club & Lodge

Easy installation • Strong and safe • Environmentally sustainable • Non slip • Light weight

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**Contact +**

**Modern mix herbicides - a match for turf weeds**

Turf weeds are a collection of plants covering broad-leaved species and rough grasses and wider in range than anything found in agricultural grassland or specific arable crops. As such greenkeepers require a sufficiently strong and broad spectrum of herbicide activity to eliminate a wide range of ‘easy’ and ‘difficult’ weeds from managed turf in the same strike.

Despite such a spectrum of turf weeds, each with its own characteristics, greenkeepers are keeping their greens, tees and fairways substantially weed free using a relatively restricted range of actives.

This is made possible by the highly sophisticated nature of turf herbicide technology. Commercial products combining the individual strengths of different active ingredients in a single herbicide formulation continue to underpin this market.

With few exceptions, modern turf herbicide products are no longer single active ingredient formulations, but two and three, or even four way products like Bayer Environmental Science’s Longbow (2,4-D, MCPA, MCPFP-P and disulfo).

Today’s turf herbicide market is dynamic with old actives lost and new ones gained to satisfy the increasing demands of turf weed management.

But this is not the whole story because a series on ongoing European Union (EU) directives continue to hit herbicides both directly and indirectly.

Greenkeepers are keeping their greens, tees and fairways substantially weed free using a relatively restricted range of actives - made possible by the highly sophisticated nature of turf herbicide technology.

Some actives have been forced from the marketplace on safety and/or environmental grounds.

Other perfectly sound active ingredients have been voluntarily withdrawn by the manufacturer because the cost involved in producing the extra data does not add up for this relatively small niche market.

Be that as it may, herbicides lost have been more than compensated for by new actives bringing hitherto undreamed of benefits for weed control in professional sports turf.

Today’s turf herbicide market is like a revolving door but not always ‘first in first out’.

Actives with pedigrees amounting to fifty years or more are still being used alongside others that were only designed and developed in the last ten years.

**Mode of action**

Many facets contribute to the success of a turf herbicide but mode of action is at the very core. Very first selective herbicides used in turf were the synthetic auxin herbicides, chemicals which are similar in structure and activity to the natural plant hormone auxin.

They target the meristems and mimic the effects of natural auxin to cause abnormal plant growth.
Bio-inspired explosive performance

The exciting new fungicide inspired by nature. Contact* action delivers fast knockdown of Fusarium in leaf and thatch along with outstanding long-lasting protection.

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MedallionTL

syngenta.

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Today’s turf herbicide market is dynamic with old actives lost and new ones gained to satisfy the increasing demands of turf weed management. But this is not the whole story because a series on ongoing European Union (EU) directives continue to hit herbicides both directly and indirectly.

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the different herbicides available to tackle those troublesome weeds.

Greenkeepers are keeping their greens, tees and fairways substantially weed free using a relatively restricted range of actives - made possible by the highly sophisticated nature of turf herbicide technology.

Some actives have been forced from the marketplace on safety and/or environmental grounds. Other perfectly sound active ingredients have been voluntarily withdrawn by the manufacturer because the cost involved in producing the extra data does not add up for this relatively small niche market.

Be that as it may, herbicides lost have been more than compensated for by new actives bringing hitherto undreamed of benefits for weed control in professional sports turf.

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responses that selectively kill broad-leaved weeds in turf.

Old faithful herbicides

This group of long pedigree herbicides, which includes 2,4-D, MCPA, mecoprop-P (MCPP-P), dichlorprop-P (DCPP-P) and dicamba, still provides the ‘bread and butter’ selective control of broad-leaved weeds exactly seventy years after 2,4-D was first described.

Dichlorprop-P (DCPP-P) and MCPA, mecoprop-P (MCPP-P), dicamba, still provides the ‘bread and butter’ selective control of broad-leaved weeds exactly seventy years after 2,4-D was first described. Dicamba, the ‘newest’ of the group and that herbicide was first described over 50 years ago in 1961.

These actives are no longer used as stand-alone herbicides but as 2, 3, and even 4-way mixtures each complementing the other to control a wide range of turf weeds.

Herbicide products which combine complementary benefits of the actives which make up this long established group of synthetic auxin herbicides include: Estromone (2,4-D, dicamba); Intrepid 2 (MCPA, DCPP-P, dicamba); Re-act (MCPA, MCPP-P, dicamba); Relay Turf (MCPA, MCPP-P, dicamba); Super Selective Plus (MCPA, MCPP-P, dicamba); T2 Green (MCPA, MCPP-P, dicamba); Longbow (2,4-D, MCPA, MCPP-P, dicamba). Overall benefit is summed up by Sheriff Amenity when talking about its T2 Green herbicide product.

“The combination of these three [complementary] active ingredients gives consistently better results than products based on one. For example, mecoprop-P gives excellent control of [white] clover, while MCPA controls weeds with deeper [bag] roots such as dandelion and cat’s ear.”

Dicamba the third herbicide active in T2 Green, and the only active ingredient common to every one of the products listed above is there (albeit at a relatively low concentration due to its much higher activity) for very good reason.

That is to knock out more difficult to control weeds like yarrow, self heal, mouse ear chickweed, clovers and trefoils.

Greenkeepers get maximum versatility from these ‘mix and match’ synthetic auxin based products by observing different rates and applications recommended by the manufacturer, depending on the spectrum of weed species presented.

One of the most explicit sets of recommendations is provided by Rigby Taylor for their Super Selective Plus herbicide product:

- Lower application rate, one treatment per season cut’s ear, greater plantain, hoary plantain, lesser plantain, ribwort plantain, sea plantain
- Lower application rate, two

Herbicide products featured

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<th>Ingredients in the formulation as g/l (gram/litre) - Source</th>
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<td>T2 Green (MCPA 256.25, MCPP-P 237.5, dicamba 31.25) - Sheriff Amenity</td>
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Select the right Irons for your course

Whether you need a long iron for extended colour, short iron for rapid greening or a mid-iron to harden turf and assist in disease resistance, we have the answer from tee-to-green.

☆ Quick acting – rapid greening
☆ Prolonged activity – up to 6-16 weeks colour
☆ Turf hardening – disease resistance
☆ No blackening or foot marks
☆ No black layer or pH problems
☆ Micro nutrient package
☆ Selection of iron % options – 3.9, 7, 8 and 20.5
☆ Can be used any time of year

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Dicamba (a benzoic acid – the others are phenoxycarboxylic acids) is the ‘newest’ of the group and that herbicide was first described over 50 years ago in 1961.

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**Herbicide products featured**

**Product** (ingredients in the formulation as g/l (gram/litre)) - Source

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Crossbar (2,4-D 285, dicamba 52.5, fluoropyr 105) – Rigby Taylor
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Longbow (2,4-D 170, MCPA 70, MCPP-P 42, dicamba 20) – Bayer Environmental Science
Praxis (clopyralid 80, fluoropyr 144, boralanum 2.5) – Everris and Sheriff Amenity
Re-act (MCPP-P 225, MCPP-P 237.5, dicamba 31.25) – Everris
Relay Turf (MCPP-P 200, MCPP-P 200, dicamba 25) – Headland Amenity
Rescue (pinosulam 45, clodinaufert 11.25) – Syngenta and Everris
Sharphead (MCPP-P 300, clopyralid 20, diflufenican 15.9) – Bayer Environmental Science
Super Selective Plus (MCPP-P 256.5, MCPP-P 237.5, dicamba 31.25) – T2 Green
Swiftstar (2,4-D 285, dicamba 52.5, fluoropyr 105) – Sheriff Amenity
Trafalgar (fluoropyr 100, floroxanum 2.5) – Sheriff Amenity
T2 Green (MCPP-P 256.25, MCPP-P 237.5, dicamba 31.25) – Sheriff Amenity

**T2 Green herbicide product.**

The combination of these three [complementary] active ingredients gives consistently better results than products based on one.

For example, mecoprop-P gives excellent control of [white] clover, while MCPA controls weeds with deeper [tap] roots such as dandelion and cat’s ear.”

Dicamba the third herbicide active in T2 Green, and the only active ingredient common to every one of the products listed above is there (albeit at a relatively low concentration due to its much higher activity) for very good reason.

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For further information contact Richard Pedder on 0800 424 919 or e-mail sales@rigbytaylor.com
treatments per season: those above plus bird’s foot trefolli, white clover, mouse-ear chickweed, black medick, selfheal, lesser trefolli (for which a repeat application may be necessary)

Newer herbicide arrivals
The contribution of herbicides, showing a synthetic auxin type mode of action to turf weed management did not stop there. Two new actives (clopyralid and fluroxypyr), more sophisticated and potent and with variations in chemistry on the ‘same basic synthetic auxin theme’, were added. These pyridocarboxylic acids were first described in 1975 (clopyralid) and 1983 (fluroxypyr). Clopyralid is absorbed by the leaves and roots, with translocation both acropetally (in the direction of the shoot’s tip) and basipetally (towards the roots) and accumulates in the meristematic tissue. Fluroxypyr is applied as fluroxypyr-meptril (no ester), which after predominately foliar uptake is hydrolysed into the parent acid (the herbicidally active form) for rapid translocation to other parts of the weed plant. Thus a new generation of turf herbicide products was born by mixing and matching from the expanded range of synthetic auxin actives then available.

Such products include: Esteem (2,4-D, MCPA, clopyralid); Swiftsure (2,4-D, dicamba, fluroxypyr); Crossbar (2,4-D, dicamba, fluroxypyr); Greenor (MCPA, clopyralid, fluroxypyr).

This additional range of products increases the strength of selective hit on broad leaved weeds in general, as well as making it that much easier to kill the most resilient weed species like selfheal, yarrow and the clowers/trefolli.

Most important single benefit was bringing slender speedwell into the weed killing arena. When Bayer Environmental Science ran their annual ‘Worst Turf Weed’ survey amongst greenkeepers at Saltex, slender speedwell would invariably come out as ‘the worst weed of managed turf’. At that time few herbicide products would claim underlined control of Veronica filiformis, but today slender speedwell control is claimed by a range of herbicide products based on a mix and match of synthetic auxin actives. These include Crossbar, Greenor and Swiftsure with the common denominator for slender speedwell control appearing to be the inclusion of fluroxypyr in the formulation.

An undisputed quick end for virtually all broad-leaved weeds in turf including the ‘die-harders’ like slender speedwell came with the introduction of additional actives with completely different modes of action. Florasulam, a triazolopyrimidinyl herbicide which inhibits the synthesis of several specific essential amino acids, is twinned with fluroxypyr in Cabadex (Headland Amenity) and Trafalgar (Sheriff Amenity), and features in a ‘three way combination’ (florasulam, fluroxypyr, clopyralid) as the herbicide phase from Everris and Sheriff Amenity.

Difluoricanil, a pyridin-carboximidazole herbicide which blocks biosynthesis of carotenoid pigment in the cells, is combined with MCPA and clopyralid in Spaniard and similarly fails to ‘spare the rod’ for die hard weeds like slender speedwell, selfheal, clovers, trefolli and mouse-ear chickweed (common mouse-ea), providing operators use the higher of two application rates recommended by the manufacturer (Bayer Environmental Science).

Entry and movement
Vast majority of herbicide actives used for selective broad leaf weed control are systemically acting chemicals, entering plants via the foliage and/or roots and subsequently moving in the xylem and/or phloem to the respective site of action, which in the case of synthetic auxins is the meristematic region (growing point) of the shoot. Dual entry via roots and foliage and fast translocation within either the xylem or phloem tissue is a distinct advantage, whether via a single active or through the combined effect of two or more actives within a single herbicide product. The apparent key advantage possessed by products which twin fluroxypyr and florasulam is having two potent actives with diverging modes of action.

However, fluroxypyr with a predominantly foliar uptake and fast translocation, and combined with dual root and foliar absorption of florasulam, which is translocated in both xylem and phloem tissues, adds extra ‘power to a products’ elbow’.

‘Rescue’ from rough grasses
Professional sports turf managers have little or no control over the conditions that cause dew. However, the application of Dew-T during times when dew formation is expected will provide excellent prevention.

Dew-T has a twin mode of action. First, it is effective in reducing water tension, thus preventing dew formation and secondly, it bonds strongly to the waxy leaf surface allowing moisture to run off.

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‘Rescue’ from rough grasses

When Bayer Environmental Science were looking for a rescue from rough grasses, even those like ryegrass which is valued in amenity grassland, are as out of place as are broad-leafed plants.

Rough grasses and their control in professional turf can prove difficult.

The offending plants are more difficult to spot and because rough grasses will be competing with fine turf grasses will be competing with fine turf grasses in the same way for the same resources.

Any herbicide used against rough grass species in managed turf must be highly selective to prevent any damage to fine turf grasses.

One herbicide has come to the rescue. Aptly named ‘Rescue’, this combines florasulam and cloquintocet-mexyl and is recommended for the selective removal of ryegrass from across the golf course, including greens, tees, fairways and approaches.

The combined active force in Rescue targets specific enzymes responsible for cell division, stopping the growth of susceptible rough grass plants with rapid onset of leaf die-back.

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A day in the life

Steve Castle heads to Lymm Golf Club for a greenkeeping crash course

Stuart Yarwood looks on with a mixture of pity and vague concern as I struggle with my latest task during a typical day in the life of a greenkeeper.

I’ve spent my morning haphazardly aerating greens and moving pin positions and now I’m failing to remove the tines from a tining machine. Stuart tells me that he’d appreciate it if I completed this challenge sometime before Christmas.

Perhaps he’s already regretting his invitation for me to muck in at the Club – which I eagerly accepted. It’s absolutely crucial for me to appreciate the daily difficulties faced by greenkeepers across the UK – particularly as I’m not from a greenkeeping background.

And as the day unfolds we battle torrential rain while investigating problems with drainage on parts of the course – something which hundreds of greenkeepers have had to contend with during the washout summer.

I arrive for my ‘shift’ woefully underprepared wearing just a polo shirt and thin jacket. Stuart looks at me disapprovingly – not for the last time – and grabs a more suitable coat for the inclement conditions to come before taking me out onto the greens and explaining some of his theories behind greenkeeping.

“One of the things many people, and I daresay many members, don’t understand is it’s such a wide ranging role. We have to get away from the traditional image of someone just mowing the grass. We have to be public relations experts within our teams and across the golf club.

“We have to be ecology, biology and botany experts, mechanics, weather forecasters and more…the list is endless.”

He enthusiastically grabs a handful of soil.

“There are billions of life forms in this, so much activity. They help clean up and aerate the soil, recycle nutrients, and decompose organic matter. “The way I look at it is I’ve got billions of greenkeepers here, all helping me out – all I have to do is look after them. It’s a little community, an ecosystem and as such needs to be grown, nourished and nurtured.”

Stuart is a founder member of the ‘Gingerbread men’ – a group committed to raising the profile of environmentally sustainable golf course management. They have stimulated intense debate in the industry, which explains their name – they are used to getting their heads bitten off.

He’s the first to admit that not everyone agrees with his opinions on greenkeeping, or his methods, but he’ll defend them to the hilt. He’s incredibly passionate about the industry and undoubtedly has a talent for explaining highly complex matters to the uninitiated such as myself.

Stuart then guides me through solid tine aeration. I mark the greenside sprinklers then attempt to use the Toro Procore 648 pedes-
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tian aerator machine, guiding it warily across the green under the watchful eye of greenkeeper Robert Cooper. Stuart and his team aerate the course between 30 and 40 times a year, at different times and at all manners of different depths. As I survey my questionable handiwork I realise that I’d been more than a little wayward. But despite my complete inability to walk in a straight line while guiding a machine, and needing a couple of attempts at changing the 17th hole, I feel cautiously optimistic. I don’t appear to have wrecked the course – or if I have, Stuart’s too polite to say.

The afternoon would be spent investigating drainage issues on a specific part of the course, which seemed a reasonable request particularly in the autumn sun which had broken through. But the weather then reverted to type and I experienced the reality of the outdoor lifestyle of the greenkeeper.

Together with two of Stuart’s colleagues I began to dig a drainage ditch on the side of the first fairway – however we were quickly swamped by an absolute deluge. I soon envied a passing group of golfers who were able to seek shelter while we plugged away, digging the ditch down to the level of the drain underneath the fairway to hopefully dispose of the excess water. Just when it seemed all our efforts were in vain the water began to drain away – a real breakthrough and a reward for a soaking afternoon of hard graft.

As we worked I had a crucial opportunity to listen to the views of Stuart’s colleagues on BIGGA, its communication with its members, the way forward and listen to some of their suggestions.

After a well-earned cuppa, Stuart took me on a tour of the course – which intriguingly, is two diverse courses in one. The top eight holes close to the famous Manchester Ship Canal are heath-like, while the rest are classic parkland.

Indeed, the canal and the course are inextricably linked as Stuart explained. The company in charge of constructing the canal owned the land either side of it, and used part of this area for dumping the soil from the digging of the waterway. This explains why holes three to ten are elevated.

As he gazed out across the canal – a fine view he’s become accustomed to since joining Lymm in 2000 – Stuart’s thoughts returned to greenkeeping as a whole.

“BIGGA’s goal should be to empower the greenkeeper. Training and education are absolutely paramount and while it’s improving, even more needs to be done.

“Today’s been hugely beneficial for me and my colleagues to show someone from HQ exactly what we do, how we do it and why we do it.”

I couldn’t agree more. It’s been exhausting – and at times, wet – but I’ve learnt an enormous amount from Stuart and his colleagues, not only about the industry but also their views on BIGGA, and the challenges we all face.

Whether I’ll ever be invited back to work on the course again is another story…
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As I survey my questionable handiwork I realise that I’d been more than a little wayward. But despite my complete inability to walk in a straight line while guiding a machine, and needing a couple of attempts at changing the 17th hole, I feel cautiously optimistic. I don’t appear to have wrecked the course – or if I have, Stuart’s too polite to say.

The afternoon would be spent investigating drainage issues on a specific part of the course, which seemed a reasonable request particularly in the autumn sun which had broken through.

But the weather then reverted to type and I experienced the reality of the outdoor lifestyle of the greenkeeper.

Together with two of Stuart’s colleagues I began to dig a drainage ditch on the side of the first fairway – however we were quickly swamped by an absolute deluge. I soon envied a passing group of golfers who were able to seek shelter while we plugged away, digging the ditch down to the level of the drain underneath the fairway to hopefully dispose of the excess water. Just when it seemed all our efforts were in vain the water began to drain away – a real breakthrough and a reward for a soaking afternoon of hard graft.

As we worked I had a crucial opportunity to listen to the views of Stuart’s colleagues on BIGGA, its communication with its members, the way forward and listen to some of their suggestions.

After a well-earned cuppa, Stuart took me on a tour of the course – which intriguingly, is two diverse courses in one. The top eight holes close to the famous Manchester Ship Canal are heath-like, while the rest are classic parkland.

Indeed, the canal and the course are inextricably linked as Stuart explained. The company in charge of constructing the canal owned the land either side of it, and used part of this area for dumping the soil from the digging of the waterway. This explains why holes three to ten are elevated.

As he gazed out across the canal – a fine view he’s become accustomed to since joining Lymm in 2000 – Stuart’s thoughts returned to greenkeeping as a whole.

“BIGGA’s goal should be to empower the greenkeeper. Training and education are absolutely paramount and while it’s improving, even more needs to be done.

“Today’s been hugely beneficial for me and my colleagues to show someone from HQ exactly what we do, how we do it and why we do it.”

I couldn’t agree more. It’s been exhausting – and absolutely wet – but I’ve learnt an enormous amount from Stuart and his colleagues, not only about the industry but also their views on BIGGA, and the challenges we all face.

Whether I’ll ever be invited back to work on the course again is another story...
The outstanding playing conditions at Woodhall Spa Golf Club in Lincolnshire, which is the home of England Golf, attract golfers all year round.

But the sandy soils and dry conditions ensure the Hotchkin course remains playable when others are closed.

Maintaining turf cover and quality on the greens over the winter is imperative for Course Manager, Sam Rhodes, to satisfy the early season demand.

Over recent years he has adopted a proactive approach with his fungicide programme, seeking to prevent infection breaking out before damage occurs on the playing surface.

“We wanted to look at preventing disease damage. However, we were adamant that we didn’t want to go down a routine prophylactic treatment of spraying a fungicide every five or six weeks. We are keen to minimise the use of any inputs, from an ecological and economic standpoint. The solution has been to introduce a proactive approach that integrates new developments in fungicide technology and turf disease risk assessment, alongside traditional greenkeeping techniques and experience.”
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“In the past we had simply reacted to disease attacks; we were fighting to control outbreaks and limit the extent of damage to greens over the winter.

“Then we had to work extra hard in the spring to get them back in good condition as quickly as possible.

“It was the same cycle every year.”

“We wanted to look at preventing disease damage.

“However, we were adamant that we didn’t want to go down a routine prophylactic treatment of spraying a fungicide every five or six weeks.

“We are keen to minimise the use of any inputs, from an ecological and economic standpoint.

“The solution has been to introduce a proactive approach that integrates new developments in fungicide technology and turf disease risk assessment, alongside traditional greenkeeping techniques and experience – with
the aim to maintain clean surfaces right through the winter.

“We recognised that with the potential of the new fungicides, we needed to be smarter in the way that we used them to get the best results.”

Sam believes they now understand better what they are aiming to achieve with each application, and selecting the most appropriate option that best matches the situation.

That means he will pick a systemic when turf is actively growing, a cool weather systemic as it starts to slow in the autumn, and then only switch to a contact when growth has effectively stopped.

He uses soil temperature information as a guide to turf growth and selecting the appropriate fungicide.

“When the changing weather patterns you really can’t apply fungicides by the calendar anymore, which makes weather-based prediction even more important.”

As part of this, Sam now also uses the local five-day disease forecasts on the GreenCast website as a key tool to pre-empt and prevent damaging disease attacks.

He stresses that it certainly doesn’t replace his local knowledge and experience of the course, but is a valuable adjunct in supporting his decision making.

“This approach has really made us think about every application, and how we can integrate them with better cultural controls to help improve results.”

Assessing any impending disease risk, Sam will look at what fungicide was last applied and when, how much growth there has been, if the turf is under any particular stress and any other factors that might make the greens more or less susceptible to specific disease infection.

“If we feel there is still sufficient protection in the plant or if it is all looking particularly healthy, for example, the risk assessment helps give us the confidence to leave it a few more days, or possibly apply an iron treatment.

“But where we can see the risk is high, we can be assured that we are taking the right action with a fungicide application.”

Sam recalled that last winter GreenCast predicted a high risk of Microdochium Patch (Fusarium) and the looming prospect of cold weather.

He fortuitously took the decision to apply Medallion TL prior to the snow, and when it finally cleared after several weeks the greens surfaces were completely clean.

“We didn’t know the snow cover was going to be so long, but having seen the high risk of snow it did prompt us to get the protection on early.

“We were also confident the protection would stay in place with zero growth beneath the snow.

“With the combination of improved cultural controls and more targeted fungicides, even the most susceptible greens have stayed completely clean, which has received favourable comments from players.”

Monitoring and experience the results means the Woodhall Spa members and club management have been convinced that it is the right approach, which Sam believes will make further activities easier to implement.

“We are extremely proud of the ecological credentials of the course, but are also aware that the quality of the greens and the course is essential to attract members and visitors.”

“With the proactive and integrated approach to managing the playing surfaces we are only using treatments where they are required, and we are able to justify every application we make.

“Even with the extremely challenging weather conditions we are increasingly experiencing, we have found that we are able to maintain better turf quality.

“And by using the fungicide treatments more effectively, we have actually made fewer applications over the course of the season.

“We certainly feel much more in control and ready for what might happen.”

**Temperature controlled fungicide selection**

Soil temperatures that dictate turf growth rates give an essential guide to appropriate fungicide selection to avoid damaging disease attacks through autumn and winter conditions, and protect playing surface quality, advises Syngenta Technical Manager, Dr Simon Watson.

Over recent seasons, late autumn and early winter has seen prolonged warm temperatures, or more specifically higher soil temperatures with continued growth.

When turf is actively growing a systemic fungicide is essential; contact or local penetrant fungicides applied at this time will quickly grow up the leaf and be cut off, leaving new growth at the base of the leaf exposed to infection within hours of application.

As temperatures cool, but whilst turf is still actively growing, a cool weather systemic will provide fast moving protection, to prevent loss of turf quality.

As growing conditions slow further, the contact Medallion TL will be more appropriate to reduce the pathogen presence in the thatch and protect the leaf through the cold weather, when the grass plant is dormant.

**Checklist for autumn and winter fungicide selection**

- Track soil temperatures and clipping yield to check turf growth
- Employ ITM practices to reduce risk of disease build-up
- Use a cool weather systemic fungicide whilst turf is still growing
- Switch to contact+ protection with slow or zero turf growth
- Manage nutrition to keep turf healthy, but avoid rapid growth
- Also GreenCast local disease forecasts to pro-actively prevent infection.
The aim to maintain clear surfaces right through the winter.

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Seeing and experiencing the results means the Woodhall Spa course has received favourable comments and the upcoming prospect of cold weather and the looming prospect of cold weather.

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In the wake of Europe’s astonishing triumph at the Medinah Country Club, Curtis Tyrrell MG – the Club’s Director of Golf Course Operations – is a guest speaker at one of the ‘Continue to Learn’ seminars.

He’ll be joined by Jim McKenzie, who conquered atrocious conditions at Celtic Manor two years ago to help the Europeans emerge victorious, and Steve Chappell who is now looking forward to welcoming the party to Gleneagles on 2014.

Where else will you be able to get the lowdown on the past, present and future Ryder Cups?

BTME 2013, incorporating ‘Continue to Learn’, will also host the third annual Turf Managers’ Conference featuring Dr Thom Nikolai, one of the world’s eminent turf professors, looking at green speed. There will also be dozens of educational seminars and workshops featuring everything from soil analysis to IT.

Turf professionals and buyers cannot afford to miss this annual chance to browse, buy and seek crucial advice from many of the world’s top manufacturers and service providers. We’ve already filled 90% of the available stand space – so don’t delay if you’re still looking to book a slot.

This is all before you consider the superb networking opportunities available – the event could potentially boost your career or business.

The event kicks off on Sunday 20 January with our ‘Continue to Learn’ seminars and workshops, and the full exhibition opens on Tuesday 22 January until Thursday 24 January.

Make sure you register today at www.btme.org.uk to beat the queues!

The BTME website includes bags of information about the big week including how to book a stand, accommodation, travel tips, lists of exhibitors and a product guide.

Register your place at the ultimate turf management event today. We’ll leave the final word to BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton…

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**New Backpack Blowers**

The new backpack blowers are suitable for both small and medium-sized deck-clearance jobs around the golf course.

**Self-Propelled Debris Management**

Little Wonder are at the forefront of debris management and have also introduced a new line up of models across their Optimax range of blowers.

**Proforce Debris Blower**

Perfect for big clean-up jobs around the golf course, the Toro Proforce Blower delivers unrivalled air power, durability and ease of use for fast and efficient removal of grass clippings, leaves, aeriation cores and sand, gravel, rubbish and other debris.

**Backpack for Hard Work**

The Trilo S3 vacuum sweeper, from The Grass Group, is the latest product to emerge from a programme of producing equipment for use with sub 30hp tractors.

**BR 430 - The hard-working professional**

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**Hand-held wireless control**

A key feature is the hand-held wireless remote control, which allows the operator to start and stop the engine, adjust the engine, throttle up and down to match air power to the job at hand, and rotate the nozzle 360 degrees – all from the driver seat of a Toro Workman MT Series or similar utility vehicle.

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Pellenc manufacturer a choice of options which are available through Etiesia UK.

The Airion is a hand-held blower intended for cleaning roads, parks and gardens as well as areas around a clubhouse.

Weighing only 2.6 kg and with a noise level of just 72 dB(A) the Airion is claimed to be the lightest and quietest professional blower on the market.

It is very comfortable to hold owing to the soft touch new generation handgrasp and is optimally balanced for natural tilting towards the ground.

Low Emission Levels

Comparing the direct emissions of CO₂ of the Airion with a petrol engine, the difference is enormous.

A petrol-engine blower has a direct emission of over 4 tonnes of CO₂ per year while the Airion only emits 47 kg.

The Airion prevents almost 99% of the direct emissions of a petrol engine.

If Pellenc batteries are recharged with the recently launched Solarion solar charger, direct CO₂ emissions are totally eliminated.

Contact Etiesia UK on 01295 680129 or visit www.etesia.co.uk

New HPV Vacuum

At Saltex 2012, Little Wonder launched the new HPV vacuum for the Golf and Amenity Professional.

This latest version of the HPV has superior suction and airflow thanks to its 17inch, 5 blade reverse angled impeller and unique scroll housing design.

In terms of debris management, this vacuum will collect almost any item including leaves, litter, plastic bottles plus sand and grit.

This top loading vacuum is ideal for golf course club and hotel grounds, car parks, sports facilities, parks and grounds maintenance.

Self-Propelled Debris Management

Little Wonder are at the forefront of debris management and have also introduced a new line up of models across their Optimax range of blowers.

The models are available with 270cc or 390cc Honda engines or 400cc Subaru engine.

With the new Remote Chute Deflector Control located at your fingertips, you can control the patented split air-stream discharge with ease.

This removes leaves and debris with unmatched air power more easily and without stopping.

The introduction of the new self-propelled Blowers with a choice of Honda engines provides a new level of performance in the walk-behind blower market.

Contact Schiller Groundscare (Little Wonder) on 0800 840 0888 or email: info@littlewonder.uk.com

Solo Backpack Blowers

Distributed by Lely UK, the Solo range of Backpack Blowers is ideal for both small and medium-sized debris-clearance jobs around the golf course.

Thanks to its high airflow rate of approximately 1,400m3/h (which is the Solo 467 Backpack Blower keeps emissions low but output high to make this one of the most effective and environmentally-friendly models on the market.

The new, more powerful 66.5cc engine with magnesium crankcase provides the professional performance you’d expect from the high-quality Solo outdoor equipment range.

The clever design also reduces vibrations to the hands and back, while an ergonomic padded backrest makes for an ultra-comfy working experience.

Another great choice is the 440 hand-held model, which benefits from a 760/630m3/h airflow rate together with a light weight of just 4.1kg that makes it the ideal choice for quick clean-ups around the course.

The 440 and 441 also benefit from Solo’s unique anti-vibration technology for a comfortable working experience.

With its product portfolio also spanning brushcutters, hand-held shredders from STIHL, visit www.thegrassgroup.com or call distributor Schiller Groundscare on 01840 226800 or email info@thegrassgroup.com.

For further details on the full range of Backpack Blowers, visit Approved Dealer.

A Sucker for Hard Work

The Toro ProForce debris blower, visit www.toro.com or call distributor Lely UK on 01480 226800 or email toro.info.uk@ley.com.

A Blower for Hard Work

The Trilo S3 vacuum sweeper, from The Grass Group, is the latest product to emerge from a group of producing equipment for use with sub 30hp tractors.

It is a Golf and Amenity Professional’s perfect working companion for both small and medium-sized debris clearance jobs around the golf course.

Along with a smaller working width came a reduction in weight to only 1200kg, so that only a mid-range compact tractor of 28 HP is required.

The new design is the result of many years of experience to meet the requirements of councils, contractors, groundsmen and greenkeepers working in the challenging environment.

A 5 inch diameter hand held winder hose makes the S3 suitable for versatile use all year round to clean hard to get areas such as bunkers, shrubberies or refuse bins.

Email: tim@thegrassgroup.com / www.thegrassgroup.co.uk

New Backpack Blowers

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Usually the domain of professional users, the new backpack models will put their great power and performance to work for more hands with prices and power ratings to suit everyone from the domestic gardener to the working contractor.

Outside of Europe, Twin Handle assistants hands both in winter, spring and summer there will inevitably be litter or debris to get to and in the autumn they really come into their own.

BR 430 – The hard-working professional

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Email: tim@thegrassgroup.com / www.thegrassgroup.co.uk
How to get the best out of your maintenance equipment

James de Haviland reports on how having a little knowledge can save you money.

In many cases, the routine service and daily maintenance demands of modern equipment has been reduced, but that does not also mean a quick wash is all it takes to keep a given item of equipment running efficiently. A little mechanical knowledge and sympathy can go a long way in cutting costs and improving efficiency.

A key management skill is establishing the right balance between these machinery maintenance tasks that can be carried out in-house and knowing when to call in third party skills. It would be a brave golf club that would forgo its own workshop facilities to rely solely upon a third party for all its equipment maintenance needs.

But whilst a well-equipped workshop remains pretty much as ‘must have’, ensuring there are individuals on hand to exploit such facilities is not always a primary consideration. To get the best from your equipment it pays to firstly establish what can be done in-house to look after it and what is best left to a dealer specialist to sort out.

A modern ride-on mower may still ‘look’ pretty similar to kit that was in action a decade or more ago but increasingly electronics are in integral part of the design. These can make operation easier as switches replace various levers but it can also mean you need to have access to a different set of skills to find any faults and remedy them.

It is here where having some mechanical skills can really pay dividends. It is all too easy to take the wrong action when a given type of equipment develops a fault. The first is to simply call someone in to fix the issue. Good call if the problem takes specialist skills to diagnose and fix, less so if a squirt of WD40 to ‘inject’ oil into anyone unfortunate enough to probe with an investigat- ing hand.

Those that understand this will never work on a mower with a leak until they are sure there is no pressure in the system. Those unaware of the potential dangers could end up with a nasty injury. So, a little knowledge can save money and help avoid accidents.

But how do you know who has the right level of knowledge and who should be instructed to stick to a pressure washer and a grease gun? The short answer is training.

Those with various ‘paper’ qualifications may be able to prove they are safe to be let loose on basic mechanical work but a newcomer claiming mechanical skills may need to offer some proof of competence. Getting it wrong can cause equipment issues and, more importantly, even result in injury.

Advantages of ensuring you retain in-house skills can ensure:

- Minor breakdowns can take less time to resolve
- In-house workshops personnel know the levels of use equipment is put to and can develop a maintenance schedule to match
- In-house repairs may be more economic, particularly on equipment outside of warranty
- In-house skills can be tapped to develop modifications and adaptations to suit specific requirements
- Operating costs can be spread to cover all items of equipment, reducing overall maintenance bill
- Other equipment can be kept running longer, particularly by skilled personnel not afraid to modify and adapt to suit changing demands
- The ability to repair a puncture quickly in-house can save time and money

Basic workshop skills should be nurtured and encouraged, particularly for those willing to undertake further training to enhance their skills. Setting the height of cut or cutterhead adjustment is a job typically left to one person. But if another wants to learn what to do then they should be encouraged. Sharing skills is an asset.

As budgets are squeezed, the cost of maintaining certain items of equipment may come under review. Below are some pointers that may help when thinking ahead.

Maintenance contracts and dealer servicing – with in-house routine and simple servicing offers:

- Planned regular maintenance, in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations, will comply with warranty requirements
- Regular servicing will enhance reliability
- Burden of maintenance responsibility shared with a third party
- Frequent maintenance reduces downtime
- Enhanced residual values of kit with a dealer service history

No need to invest in specialist service tools
- Reduced need to send workshop personnel on factory training courses
- Specialist equipment may be available to reduce service and repair times
- Cost of servicing in demanding season covered

Warranties and equipment care

Modern equipment should demand less in terms of routine care and not necessarily tax the servicing skills of club personnel who have been working on various types of equipment for years.

On the other hand, manufacturers and supplying dealers are increasingly linking in a maintenance package to various sales initiatives.

For both manufacturers and dealers it makes sound business sense to ensure a given item of kit is serviced to OEM schedules using OEM replacement parts. Of equal importance, there is a need to ensure equipment is serviced during its warranty period. It is difficult for warranty claims to be handled sympathetically when there is no record of the machine having been serviced in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

This is of increasing significance with equipment with a long original or extended warranty. In all cases, it pays to talk through how a given item of new equipment will be looked after to ensure you get the best backup. If the dealer / manufacturer offers any training courses as part of a deal and ensure they are taken up and by as many staff as possible.

Operator training is increasingly valuable and should go well beyond the basic machine installation you may get when a new bit of kit is delivered.

Knowing where an elusive grease point is can make a great deal of difference.
How to get the best out of your maintenance equipment

James de Haviland reports on how having a little knowledge can save you money

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But whilst a well-equipped workshop remains pretty much as a ‘must have’, ensuring there are individuals on hand to exploit such facilities is not always a primary consideration.

To get the best from your equipment it pays to firstly establish what can be done in-house to look after it and what is best left to a dealer specialist to sort out.

A modern ride-on mower may still look ‘pretty similar’ to that in action a decade or more ago but increasingly electronics are in integral part of the design. These can make operation easier as switches replace various levers, but it can also mean you need to have access to a different set of skills to find any faults and remedy them.

It is here where having some mechanical skills can really pay dividends. It is all too easy to take the wrong action when a given type of equipment develops a fault.

The first is to simply call someone in to fix the issue. Good call if the problem takes specialist skills to diagnose and fix, less so if a squirt of WD40 to displace some moisture is all that is needed.

The flip side is the error of trying to carry out an in-house repair and to subsequently do more damage.

Trained fitters typically dislike arriving to find a machine has been taken apart to solve a problem that cannot subsequently be checked as the machine is reduced to a pile of bits.

The key is having enough mechanical knowledge to understand what may help but know when it is best to leave well alone and call in help. There are other issues too. Few realise, for example, that hydraulic circuits can be under tremendous pressures.

A tiny leak, when pressurised, can produce a jet of hydraulic fluid that may not be visible but still has the power to penetrate clothing and ‘inject’ oil into anyone unfortunate enough to be probing in an investigatory hand.

Those that understand this will never work on a mower with a leak until they are sure there is no pressure in the system. Those unaware of the potential dangers could end up with a nasty injury. So, a little knowledge can save money and help avoid accidents.

But how do you know who has the right level of knowledge and who should be instructed to stick to a pressure washer and a grease gun? The short answer is training.

Those with various ‘paper’ qualifications may be able to prove they are safe to be let loose on basic mechanical work but a newcomer claiming mechanical skills may need to offer some proof of competence.

Getting it wrong can cause equipment issues and, more importantly, even result in injury.

Warranties and equipment care

Modern equipment should demand less in terms of routine care and not necessarily tax the servicing skills of club personnel who have been working on various types of equipment for years.

On the other hand, manufacturers and supplying dealers are increasingly linking in a maintenance package to various sales initiatives.

For both manufacturers and dealers it makes sound business sense to ensure a given item of kit is serviced to OEM schedules using OEM replacement parts.

Of equal importance, there is a need to ensure equipment is serviced during its warranty period.

It is difficult for warranty claims to be handled sympathetically when there is no record of the machine having been serviced in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

This is of increasing significance with equipment with a long original or extended warranty. In all cases, it pays to talk through how a given item of new equipment will be looked after to ensure you get the best backup. If the dealer / manufacturer offers any training courses as part of a deal try and ensure they are taken up and by as many staff as possible.

Operator training is increasingly valuable and should go well beyond the basic machine installation you may get when a new bit of kit is delivered.

Knowing where an elusive grease point is can make a great deal of difference.

As budgets are squeezed, the cost of maintaining certain items of equipment may come under review. Below are some pointers that may help when thinking ahead.

Maintenance contracts and dealer servicing – with in-house routine and simple servicing offers:

• Planned regular maintenance, in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations, will comply with warranty requirements

• Regular servicing will enhance reliability

• Burden of maintenance responsibility shared with a third party

• Routine maintenance reduces downtime

• Enhanced residual values of kit with a dealer service history

• No need to invest in specialist service tools

• Reduced need to send workshop personnel on factory training courses

• Specialist equipment may be available to reduce service and repair times

• Cost of servicing in demanding season covered

Advantages of ensuring you retain in-house skills can ensure:

• Minor breakdowns can take less time to resolve

• In-house workshops personnel ‘know’ the levels of use equipment is put to and can develop a maintenance schedule to match

• In-house repairs may be more economic, particularly on equipment out of warranty

• In-house skills can be tapped to develop modifications and adaptations to suit specific requirements

• Operating costs can be spread to cover all items of equipment, reducing overall maintenance bill

• Other equipment can be kept running longer, particularly by skilled personnel not at all to modify and adapt to suit changing demands

The ability to repair a machine quickly in-house can save time and money.

Basic workshop skills should be nurtured and encouraged, particularly for those willing to undertake further training to enhance their skills. Setting the height of cut or verticutter adjustment is a job typically left to one person. But if another wants to learn what to do then they should be encouraged.

Sharing skills is an asset.
Seed and sustainability

With the imminent launch of Arrowtown bent at BTME 2013, a unique new cultivar from Johnsons Sports Seed, Noel MacKenzie of Sports Turf Consulting Limited has a closer look at bent grass use and asks if this grass has something to offer where sustainability is concerned.
Seed and sustainability

With the imminent launch of Arrowtown bent at BTME 2013, a unique new cultivar from Johnsons Sports Seed, Noel MacKenzie of Sports Turf Consulting Limited has a closer look at bent grass use and asks if this grass has something to offer where sustainability is concerned.
But with bent grasses most agronomists and greenkeepers agree that these will get a foothold even when the management regime is not well suited to it. Quite often it persists in a situation where the management, instead of helping this grass to thrive, is at best ambivalent about its presence and sometimes downright derogatory.

With the right approach bents can fulfil a very useful place and make up a useful proportion of the sward.

Five key issues need to be considered:

1. Ensure you have the backing of the club in pursuing the policy

But with bent grasses most agronomists and greenkeepers agree that these will get a foothold even when the management regime is not well suited to it.

What role, if any, can bent grasses play?

On courses in and around big conurbations, they are usually dominated by annual meadow grass due to certain factors such as:

• high wear and trampling levels,
• intensive management to combat those high wear levels,
• poor soil types which in winter work against deeper rooted grasses and favour Poa due to waterlogging,
• compacted soils requiring a lot of relief which opens up the surface to meadow grass germination
• low mowing heights below 4mm
• the combination of high fungicide/fertiliser/water inputs that allow Poa to survive when it might otherwise be affected by disease,
• and finally... a lack of co-ordinated seeding effort together with excessive fungicide use that protects Poa from Fusarium and Anthracnose attack.

In these environments the benefits of fescue can be greatly reduced – it simply does not survive the pressures on it.

So I wholeheartedly agree with this approach, and I don’t mind having another look at it too.

The focus is on installing fescue into golf greens.

As I understood it, the R&A and other bodies were promoting the minimal use of resources due to criticism from the press, environmental groups and the public.

Spurred on by observations in Denmark, where inputs are low and playing numbers generally lighter than UK courses, fescue was found to be performing well and some agronomists pushed this species as part of sustainable development. It is a grass that does well in many parts of the UK, especially on coastal and colder areas where play and maintenance pressure is less intensive.

While it is fair to say fescue has a role in sustainable agronomic management, it is worth asking the question whether this approach is the be all and end all of the improved sustainability process.

And what role, if any, can bent grasses play?

Everybody would agree that sustainability is a high priority in the management of golf courses, but is true sustainability actually achievable? For many people the simple answer is “No!” – however it is fair to say that golf is only sustainable as long as it gets inputs.

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3. Not all bents are the same – they will respond to different conditions through the year. Different species have different requirements for feed.

For example, Creeping bents need plenty. Colonial about half and Velvet about half as much as Colonial, and some are more water dependant than others.

Creeping bent really doesn’t like the winter or being allowed to get too long or too hungry, whilst Colonial and Velvet do well all year round but their feed and verticutting requirements were quite different.

How you make introductions with seed is as important – get it wrong and there’ll be trouble ahead, and don’t rely on a single seeding action.

Make sure you determine the right time to seed – the bent seed has limited reserves and can’t be too wet, cold or buried if it’s to have chance of survival.

Late spring, summer and a very early autumn are best in my opinion.

There are plenty of ways to overseed but the crucial part is to get the seed to soil contact and this requires sarel spiking and/or verticutting requirements were quite different.

It has a natural vigour to recover quickly from renovation and an improved drought stress recovery compared to fescue. Creeping bent really doesn’t like the winter or being allowed to get too long or too hungry, whilst Colonial and Velvet do well all year round but their feed and verticutting requirements were quite different.

Choosing the right species is the first step in relation to your other maintenance parameters, then you need to look closer at the cultivars. This may or may not mean choosing from the top listed varieties – a suitably qualified agronomist can help you in this area.

Also look at company trial sites to see what’s new – the BSSP Turfgrass Seed Book is a useful source of information.

Sustainability means using less chemicals and, seeking to ensure the course can run effectively under its own steam.

Whilst fescue has its well deserved place in maritime and colder climates in the UK and Ireland (and during winter or dry conditions) bent grasses offer a very good, and in many circumstances, better outcome towards sustainable playing surfaces.

Bents require a considered and careful approach, looking at each of the management factors listed previously to get the best from them.

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SUSTAINABILITY

Phone: 01737 819343 or cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

www.bigga.co.uk
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Different species have different requirements for feed.

For example, Creeping bent really doesn’t like the winter or being allowed to get too long or too hungry, whilst Colonial and Velvet do well all year round but their feed and verticutting requirements were quite different.

Greenkeepers can take a first look at the official independent quality trial results with the publication of the 2013 Turfgrass Seed Book, but it’s believed that in the first year seed availability is likely to be limited.

Derek adds: “Arrowtown is bred from exceptionally fine and dense plants collected from greens at Arrowtown Golf Club and in trials, it really stood out being noticeably much denser than the cultivars currently available, like Manor, Barking and Aberroyal.

Arrowtown is an exceptionally fine and dense browntop, ideally suited to closely mown (4mm) greens, tees and fairways.

On greens the tight, dense surface sets new standards for quality & disease tolerance.

It has a natural vigour to recover quickly from renovation and an improved drought stress accumulation so it is essential to get the scene set before undertaking seeding.

If you’re tempted to start a bent grass renovation program then DLF Triflur’s Derek Smith says “the new Arrowtown bent is worth a consideration.

It fits into the existing John-sona Sports Seed line up of bent grasses which include Manor, Villa 1 and Cobra Nova, the latter being the highest rated creeping bent grass for UK conditions”.

Sustainability means using less and an improved drought stress resistance, all year round but their feed and verticutting requirements were quite different.

Greenkeepers have also seen that grass disappear later under a tide of Poa due to failures of the rest of the maintenance programme.

4. How you make introductions with seed is as important – get it wrong and there’ll be trouble ahead, and don’t rely on a single seedling action.

Make sure you determine the right time in the year to seed – the bent seed has limited reserves and can’t be too wet, cold or buried if it’s to have chance of survival.

Late spring, summer and a very early autumn are best in my opinion.

There are plenty of ways to Overseed but the crucial part is to get the seed to soil contact and this requires aerating and/or scarification at the very least.

Some greenkeepers have had good results with overseeding with deep scarifying when the surface is really opened up.

Some of those greenkeepers have also seen that grass disappear later under a tide of Poa due to failures of the rest of the maintenance programme.

5. Select the right species and cultivars.

You might think it’s a bit odd to leave this until last, but I really wanted to make the point that the other issues are essential in getting to this point not vice-versa.

Choosing the right species is the first step in relation to your other maintenance parameters, then you need to look closer at the cultivars. This may or may not mean choosing from the top listed varieties – a suitably qualified agronomist can help you in this area.

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Registeration begins at 8.30am and CPD points will be awarded for attendance.

Thorpeness Golf Club is situated off the A12, then take the B1353 following signs to Thorpeness.

Ian Willett of BIGGA East Anglia and Regional Chairman Tom Smith will welcome attendees before Jim Croxton, BIGGA Chief Executive, speaks.

Other speakers are:

Kate Entwistle – New pest and disease issues’
Richard Shuttard – STRI environment competition’

Nigel Church – Safety equipment improvements’
Ken Moolde – Course improvements case study – Thorpeness’

Mark Hunt – Planning for the future’

For more information please contact Clive Osgood on 01737 819343 or cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk
The Scottish Region

Central

The Section held its autumn outing on one of the better days of the summer on 19 September at Piperdam Golf and Leisure Club. Over 45 players took part with the Swaps bowled considerably by the large contingent of students from Elmwood who had my sympathy.

It was great to see so many youngsters attend what would have been their first and event most likely to have viewed with the regulars.

The course was presented beautifully by Shaun Anderson and his staff although the pace of the greens caught many of the players out and our thanks go to Sandy Bulloch and his staff for the great conditions.

The main prize winners on the day were: 

Scratch - Scott Aitken from T.S.L. 

The Fereneze committee have arranged but if anybody is interested in playing, then please call Stuart. taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com or e-mail stuart. taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

Northern

The aweful weather again put fowl to our autumn golf day out at Halifax Golf Club which makes me think we are jinxed for such a long period. I personally have never seen so much water fall on the course by far the worst prolonged bout of bad weather that I have ever seen.

I do hope you have all managed as best you can and have my sympathy in what is for the far worst of the season. I hope the weather holds off now.

Some of you will remember Steve Dunn previously of Dunham forest and Mere Golf and Country Club.

He moved to New Zealand and into a Greenkeeping job.

And lastly a piece of news which is a wee bit disappointing but is a piece of bad news.

Steven Boyd scuppered my efforts.

The leaves are well and truly down now that’s a lot better than recent years my thanks to Sandy Bulloch and his staff for the great conditions.

Finally to the sponsors on the day:

The Aitken Bunker Edger from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to keep on top of bunker work. Time-saving and cost-effective, this machine is easy to use and maintain. Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK.

Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.

West

The by the way you get this copy of the magazine the AGM will have been done and that the venue being Hagg’s Castle Golf Club, I will report next month on what happened and any feedback for the members’ attention.

The outing held at Fereneze Golf Club on 18 September experienced beautiful sunshine and a well groomed, dry golf course which was a joy to play.

Unfortunately I was unable to find form that day, although I struck the ball well some main handicap shots and the captain Peter Boyd scuppered my efforts.

The course in excellent condition and thanks must go to Sandy Bulloch and his staff for their efforts although none concerted we appreciate all their hard work.

The Fereneze committee have to be commended for allowing our presence, this is very much appreciated, and thanks to both the catering and bar staff for attending to our requirements.

I’m sure we all wish him the best of luck and hope he gets fixed up in the near future.

And lastly a piece of news for the rice of Man who Clive Patterson formerly of Arrac golf works.

As you know we all have a bit of news about all the rain this year we were all worried about this and I’m pleased to pass on that to me in June, July and August they had 1ins of rain the rough has been thick and thick.

So much water fall on the course by far the worst prolonged bout of bad weather that I have ever seen.

I do hope you have all managed as best you can and have my sympathy in what is for the far worst of the season. I hope the weather holds off now.

I know we all have to tell the weather, but I personally have never seen so much water fall on the course for such a long period.

I've got not too much for you this month I'm afraid, but I'm working on a few things for next year and will hopefully have next years fixtures and these events confirmed by the AGM.

Thanks

Andy Slingsby
07750407876
andy.slingsby98@googglemail.com

Norther

The awful weather again put fowl to our autumn golf day out at Halifax Golf Club which makes me think we are jinxed for such a long period. I personally have never seen so much water fall on the course by far the worst prolonged bout of bad weather that I have ever seen.

Some of you will remember Steve Dunn previously of Dunham forest and Mere Golf and Country Club.

He moved to New Zealand and into a Greenkeeping job.

Chris Shepherd

North West

Again, very much a quiet month.

I am writing a month before publishing and I hope the weather holds off now.

I know we all have to tell the weather, but I personally have never seen so much water fall on the course for such a long period.
Around The Greens

Scottish Region

The Section held its autumn outing on one of the better days of the summer on 19 September at Piperdam Golf and Leisure Flats. Over 45 players took part with the greens being considered by the large contingent of students from Elmwood who have my sympathy.

It was great to see so many youngsters attending what would have been their first event and mix with the regulars.

The course was presented beautifully by Shaun Anderson and his staff although the pace of the greens caught many of the players out and our thanks go to everyone else at Piperdam for making it possible.

The main prize winners on the day were:
- Scratch: Alastair Patterson, St Andrews, best overall net and also winner of the spring and autumn handicap combined, Shaun Anderson, Piperdam.
- Gross: Cameron Grant, St Margaret’s, winner of the Autumn Golf Tournament at Murrayfield Golf Club we played our Autumn Golf Day on 6 November this year, 28 people attended and 25 scored within 5 strokes of par. It was struck the ball well some missed putts the best days for a while. Over 45 players took part with the greens being considered by the large contingent of students from Elmwood who have my sympathy.

The finals are Paul Armour (Castle Utd GC) future and Gordon Irvine who walked in perfect condition, with Phil Butler (Murrayfield) coming through and winning a trophy, local knowledge eh Phil.

We would like to thank Stuart Taylor Scottish Chairman, for attending and also David Greenshields for his harrenbough presentation after dinner.

Asatronaut from Cath- kins Bras did pick up a prize and the Scottish region won the team prize, so congratulations to the team members.

Two brilliant days were experienced by all and on the evening of Monday a lovely meal was laid on by the club steward.

Well done to the Irvine Bog- side council and committee for allowing us the privilege of playing your wonderful course and we wish you much success for their efforts in running an excellent competition.

‘local knowledge eh Phil’

The course in excellent condition and thanks must go to Sandy Balloch and his staff for their efforts although none commented we appreciate all their hard work.

The course was presented beautifully by Shaun Anderson and his staff although the pace of the greens caught many of the players out and our thanks go to everyone else at Piper- dam for making it possible.

We had our Autumn Golf Tournament at Murrayfield Golf Course on Wednesday 19th September. The weather was dry and sunny and should have reflected some low scoring in our stab- 3rd course format, results as follows:...
Around The Green

Hull to raise much needed funds for help for heroes approximately £2000 raised well done suffers! The national tournament took place at Irvine golf club and by all accounts the course and competitive spirit where both at exceptionally high standards but even though our entrants, Andy Peel and Jez Bremer turning up in a pair of trousers straight from the shopping centre's Flag It. However, his highly distract- ing attire wasn't enough to put off the eventual winners, Nick ‘Three-Birdies-in-a-Row’ Miles and Mick伟 with scores of rounds back from Simon Banks and Andy Marsh at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club and Andy Lane in third place. Nearest the pin went to Nigel Peck with the longest drive prize was won by Nick Yee-Just- Hit It-A Country-Miles. These two prizes were gener- ally sponsored as ever by Tacl, Andy Peel and the Chamberlain for organising that. The committee would also like to thank Banks Ancoats, Countrywide and Farmura for their generous sponsorship of the day in general, enabling us to provide a very appealing prize fund.

Thanks also to Frank Kemp- ster and his team for producing an tremendous condition along with an extremely hospitable clubhouse for a long day.

Our Regional Administrator Sandra Raper was also there to assist us at the event, assist with the AGM and show off her remarkable golf skills. Overall the day was a great success, although again low members and guests came but it was reas- suring for me to play a round of golf with Carl Chamberlain with a few other choppers, any unassuming golfers uncon- science with his wayward shots! The AGM that followed pro- duced a lively session with lots to discuss and agenda. All members of the committee were voted back on and Andy Peel was re-elected as Chairman of the Midlands Forest GC was voted on for the forth- coming year.

Andy also represented the East Midlands section along with Garry Thurman at the National Championships on 8th/9th October. Around The Green noted that the East Midlands Section fielded a team of three, Andy Porter 36 points, Nigel Colly 36 points and Andy English 33 points in the White- muss Inter-Section Golf Day at Greetham Valley GC. This year’s modest scores meant that the East Midlands Section came second by one point to the Midlands Section. However, Adi Porter, with several years of local knowledge on the Longest Drive and Nick ‘This is becoming a habit’ Colly were closely behind the Pin prize. Adi and his team are to be congratulated on their presen- tation of the day especially the outstanding greens.

Sandra did a sterling job in organizing the day, with Whitmoren, the day’s sponsors and Greetham, we wish them all the best for their hospitality and quality of food. As I said earlier it had been a busy month or so for the section and all this typing whilst run- ning my checks is making me tired and thirsty. It must be nearly beer o’clock!

As Leslie Phillips used to say, ‘probably whilst watching Dave Smith’s cast off trousers’ Ding....

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? – 19 years.
2. What was it about the career that attracted you? – Working outdoors and job satisfaction.
3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be? – Footballer.
4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? – Dealing with members, something that needs fixing rapidly.
5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? – Pumping water from flooded areas.
6. What one thing – other than a pay rise – would improve the greenkeepers’ lot? – Managers understanding that what is needed to run a golf course.
7. Hobbies? – Football, going on holiday to the Middle East.
10. Is your claim to fame? – Spending four days with Andy Peel visiting a foreign country, driving him round the golf course after he fell and hurt his knee, also met GMac who is a top man.

Around The Green

50

November 2012

We are currently accepting entries for all our events. So please don’t wait until the last minute.

AAG

South East

Surrey

Monday October 15

Just had a text from Chris Gordon, course manager at Greatheath Golf Club, giving the sad news that his mechanic Steve Rusby has died suddenly yesterday. Steve, a keen lawnmower racer and winner of many events over the years, leaves his wife Sharon and daughters Rachel and Hannah. We have asked Chris to pass on our condolences to Steve’s family.

Richmond GC was the excellent venue on October 1st for the annual contest for the crest.

Thanks to Lee Howells, Richmond GC for allowing us courtesy and also the chef for a lovely meal.

Sandra Raper of the Midlands Regional Administrator for organising the day and Andy Law and Whitmoren Eco for sponsoring the event.

He won with a score of 146 over 36 holes medallia. Playing off of scratch he beat both of the top two. Congratulations on a great achievement.

Over the past 4 years he has won the club champs at both the Brougham and bridge golf clubs respectively.

Oly Browning (23) of Stocks and Ivinghoe golf clubs in the club champs at both clubs. Over 36 holes medal play.

Sungmin GC while Harewood Downs GC v Drawn Park GC make up the second good to four teams!

In other news from around the Midlands Section Conference is being held at Forest Hill Golf Club in Leeds. Please let me know if you could attend.

Malcolm Peake is still demon- strating his remarkable skill if anyone wants to arrange a demonstration he can be contacted on tel 07801 239790.

If anyone has any new views or ideas they would like to share then please don’t hesitate to get in touch: bbcsport@bigga.co.uk or mobile tel: 07801 239790.

This is becoming a habit Colley pondering what on earth he is doing yet again to spew out for this month’s report.

Our AGM tournament was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club on 20th September. The day produced a number of surprises including Dave Smith sitting in third place behind the evergreen Andy Bremer turning up in a pair of trousers straight from the shopping centre’s Flag It. However, his highly distract- ing attire wasn’t enough to put off the eventual winners, Nick ‘Three-Birdies-in-a-Row’ Miles and Mick伟 with scores of rounds back from Simon Banks and Andy Marsh at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club and Andy Lane in third place. Nearest the pin went to Nigel Peck with the longest drive prize was won by Nick Yee-Just- Hit It-A Country-Miles. These two prizes were gener- ally sponsored as ever by Tacl, Andy Peel and the Chamberlain for organising that. The committee would also like to thank Banks Ancoats, Countrywide and Farmura for their generous sponsorship of the day in general, enabling us to provide a very appealing prize fund.

Thanks also to Frank Kemp- ster and his team for producing an tremendous condition along with an extremely hospitable clubhouse for a long day.

Our Regional Administrator Sandra Raper was also there to assist us at the event, assist with the AGM and show off her remarkable golf skills. Overall the day was a great success, although again low members and guests came but it was reassuring for me to play a round of golf with Carl Chamberlain with a few other choppers, any unassuming golfers uncon- science with his wayward shots! The AGM that followed pro- duced a lively session with lots to discuss and agenda. All members of the committee were voted back on and Andy Peel was re-elected as Chairman of the Midlands Forest GC was voted on for the forthcoming year.

Andy also represented the East Midlands section along with Garry Thurman at the National Championships on 8th/9th October. Around The Green noted that the East Midlands Section fielded a team of three, Adi Porter 36 points, Nigel Colly 36 points and Asa

Midland

Well as I sit here in Stratford Towers pondering what on earth is the point of this report, as ever I find myself pondering what on earth is the point of this report, as ever I find myself looking at my sun lounger, in my budgie or looking at my sun lounger, in my budgie

There will be a half-day tournament hosted by Nigel Colley 36 points and Asa

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Around The Green

East Midlands

Around The Green notes! Those of you that know me will be familiar with my wayward shots! As I said earlier it had been a busy month or so for the section and all this typing whilst wearing Dave Smith’s cast off trousers.

As Leslie Phillips used to say, "probably whilst wearing Dave Smith’s cast off trousers..."

Ding... Done. Grey Skinner 07970 005264

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

This year’s BB&O Turkey Trot is the same distance more to the Oxfordshire.

The event which is arguably the most popular on the section’s calendar will take place on October 12 and will follow the same format as last year. The Turkey Trot has been well attended by a number of competitors over the past few years, with around 100 people turning up on the day, hopefully as usual we will have the same number of leaves will be doing the same, and as always a frustrating time of the year clear up the continual deluge day in day out!

We will have played our Autumn Championship on the Barley Green by the time you get this so let’s hope we get lucky with the weather. If you can’t play the Autumn Championship then contact Sandra for an update.

Our final Golf event of the season is the Tournament of Europe being hosted at Irvine Golf Club on the 20th September.

Sandra Raper our Midlands Regional Administrator will be hosting this event at Dunstable Downs GC so please get your golf clubs to her to enter.

The event will be played over two days for a team of four in in handicap format over the best two scores. Prices are £150 for Members and £160 for any non members.

We have some good news from one of our boys flying the flag for our section. Oly Hughes (23) of Stocks Golf Club has won the biggest competition ever on the Bigger National Championship at Irvine Golf Club on the Ashy bay course.

Sandra will be working to update the HQ email system over the winter.

In order to keep up to date with what’s happening in the Midland Section please email Sandra details to sandra@bigga.co.uk.

If anyone has any news or views they would like to say, please don’t hesitate to get in touch: bboogreenkeepers@gmail.com or contact Mertt Nutter: bboogreenkeepers.co.uk

Mid Anglia

We are well and truly heading into autumn/winter as the continual deluge day in day out is here with us again, hopefully most of the leaves will be doing the same, but always a frustrating time of the year clear up the continual deluge day in day out!

We will have played our Autumn Championship on the Barley Green by the time you get this so let’s hope we get lucky with the weather.

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If anyone has any news or views they would like to say, please don’t hesitate to get in touch: bboogreenkeepers@gmail.com or contact Mertt Nutter: bboogreenkeepers.co.uk

Midland

Well, as I sit here in Stratford Towers pondering what on earth to write in these notes, I am trying to find inspiration from "The Rhulahut of Omar Khayyam".

His understanding of the human condition can only be found by the knowledge of his experiences and the writings of those before.

With this in mind it is quite fitting that our Christmas Tournament will be held at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club on 3rd December, such is being held in our local region under the chairmanship of member Alan Kite, who is retiring after 15 years.

It will be his last stand.

I hope that you will support this event, we will see you there.

Sandra Raper

Midlands

Our AGM tournament was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club on 20th September.

The day produced a number of surprises including Dave Taylor who hit two birdies turning in a pair of twos at the opening hole of the greenkeeper’s flag. However, his highly distracting attire wasn’t enough to deny Simon Banks and Mick Markwick victory. The best gross of the day went to Simon Banks and Andy Marsh with Andy Colley and Andy Lane in third place.

Nearest the Pin went to Nigel Mytton and the longest drive was won by Nick Veale. Just Hit-It-A-Country-Miles. These two prizes were generously sponsored as ever by Tauc, Thank you Bank Ancillary, Countryside and Farmland for their generosity of spirit.

The day in general, enabled us to provide a very appealing prize fund of £700.

Thanks also to Frank Kempster and his team for producing the fine weather conditions along with an extremely hospitable clubhouse for a lovely meal.

Our Regional Administrator Sandra Raper was also there this day to discuss under AOB.

Our monthly look into the life of an Assistant Greenkeeper... Assistant Profile

Name: Marshall
Age: 35
Club: Matfen Hall
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Dash

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 19 years
2. What is your claim to fame? Playing on the European Tour.
3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be? Footballer
4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Organising the day and Andy Law and Whiteness Eco for sponsoring the event.
5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Pumping water from flooded areas
6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ life? Managers understanding what is needed to run a golf course
7. Hobbies? Football, going on holiday to the Middle East
8. Favourite Band? Black Eyed Peas
9. Which team do you support? The Toon Army!
10. What is your claim to fame? Turning the bin round himself!
**Around The Green**

**Northern Region**

Neil McGrath, North Eastern Section Chairman, North East Region.

**Midland Region**

Mark Smith, Midland Section Chairman, Midland Region.

**South East Region**

Doug King, South Coast Section Chairman, South East Region.

**South West/South Wales Region**

David King, South Coast Section Chairman, South West Region.

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

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One of my playing groups just enjoyed a walk around the local course for a bit of fun and chat. The weather was definitely on our side, with a gentle breeze and warm sun streaming down on us.

---

The local golf club recently held their Autumn Tournament, which was a great success. The course was in excellent condition, with a beautiful setting for a day's golf.

---

**South Coast**

What a week, coming off the back of the Autumn Trophy, all my staff for sticking at it and finally getting the job done. Just waiting for members to ask why the holes are not yet filled!

---

**SOUTH WEST & WALES**

The competition winners for the day are as follows: 3rd place at Darlington 36pts; 2nd place Paul Garland 36pts; and the overall winner was Steve Celyne 37pts, a little local knowledge can go a long way.

---

**Susssex**

The weather forecast may have been part to blame but the rain didn’t really materialise to any significance. Instead it was fog that nearly stopped play.

---

The Autumn Tournament was held at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club with a very good turnout of members playing.

---

**Essex**

This month’s report has quite a lot of information for section members, with news of two educational events in the section.

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The election of officers this year is for a Chairman, as Mark Stopps is stepping down as Regional Administrator. Nominations for the Chairmans position is up as Neil Peakes-Jones.

---

If you haven't got a 3 ball contact glassy2003@hotmail.com for more information and availability.

---

If Alex has not got your email quoted by Kev a week before the event.

---

the highlight of the calendar, I'll see you there! We would also like to thank our patronage partners for their continued support.

---

The recent event had to be sponsored and will be available as soon as possible.

---

So we have another page for the southwest section, the section secretary will email an entry form to all our members prior to the event.

---

The AGM was held before the Autumn event, so there will be some feedback from the floor.

---

Please email your notes to admin.1.matthews@hotmail.co.uk.

---

the AGM, another impressive turn out for the south west section.

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With 30 playing and 3+ for the AGM, another impressive turn out for the south west section.

---

The section secretary Alex will send out shortly.

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If you haven’t got your email sent in to him on southcoastsection.tony@gmail.com.

---

the section secretary to let us know.

---

the highlight of the calendar, Ill see you there!
Bigga welcomes the Members’ Area of the Region

For more information on the Midland Region, please contact

David Smith, South Coast Section David Smith, South Coast Section

William Brown, north east Section Neil Proudlock, north east Section

Northern Region

Northern Region

South East Region

South East Region

South West / South Wales Region

South West / South Wales Region


BINGA welcomes the following new members:

Scotland

Midland Region

South East Region

South West / South Wales Region

Darren Burton, star of the South West / South Wales Region

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Crowborough GC on 6th November.

The weather forecast may have been part to blame but the rain didn’t really materialise to any significant extent.

Instead it was fog that nearly and for the second time this season, the committee propose to move the Autumn Tournament to Sunday 3rd December.

If you haven’t got a 3 ball section, please help him out!

The Autumn Tournamen was played at Weymouth Golf Club on 24th September.

The Essex Golf & Country Club 14th November with details to be sent out shortly.

I would normally sign off here but there were a few more items to bring up!

In recent years we have used the same golfing industry professionals to conduct this day-long event and the feedback has always been positive.

We shall also have our AGM that same evening.

If you would like to attend at least one section meeting and see the course first hand, please come along.

Darren Burton is always on hand to help and encourage people just nights before, having returned from the USA, where he got some internal bionics.

We would like to congratulate Adam Syers from North Foreland Golf Club who recently won the regional final of Toro Student of the Year.

Our Regional Administrator, Clive Osgood will.

Our Autumn Tournament in Greenkeeper Interna-

Section Notes

Essex

This month’s report has quite a lot of information for section members, with news of two educational events in the section for November, plus results from our Autumn Trophy.

The competition winners for the day are as follows: 3rd place Paul Garland 36pts; 2nd place Steve Culey 37pts, a little local knowledge can go a long way.

The Essex Autumn Tournament in Greenkeeper Interna-

South Coast

What a week, coring the greens all day, now all my staff for sticking at it and finally getting the job done.

I am sure you will all enjoy this great feature you have at your fingertips.

The Turkey Trot at Worthing Golf Club will be on Friday 30 November by booking a table for two or more people.

This will also be a fantastic competition to compare your skills against those unknown to you.

One section member in Greenkeeper Interna-

We would like to wish the very best of luck to one of our regular attendees, Michael Robinson from St George’s Park, who is representing Great Britain in the World Golf Deaf Championship.

Michael is a fantastic player and an all round good guy who I will certainly miss seeing at these great national events.

Our section would be very proud to give you some sponsorship to take to Japan where he will be representing the World Champions.

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Hi all,

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Crowborough Beach Golf Club with a very good turn out.

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Hello all,

Our October meeting was held at East Devon Golf Club on Thursday 11 October.

The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk followed by lunch, a presentation by Paul Newcombe (Head Greenkeeper) and then our AGM.

Unfortunately the weather was not being kind and torrential rain greeted the morning followed by torrential rain over the golf and the course walk went ahead and all attendees braved the elements.

The course was in fantastic condition and treatment to Paul and his team for all their hard work.

In total, 46 members and guests attended the day, with 24 playing golf and the rest on the course walk.

Paul led the course walk and took us to some of the holes that have needed to be moved and redesigned due to the cliff top erosion.

The main aim of the club is to ensure that holes are moved inland sufficiently enough to safeguard the future of the course for another 100 years.

The holes that have been affected have been moved and designed sympathetically to ensure the undisturbed landscape and the course not compromised.

This has certainly been achieved in a stunning manner.

The 13th hole with new tee will measures approximately 200 yards.

Indigenous heather turf has been transplanted from the site to achieve heather mounds as stand-alone hazards and on bunker banks to give a natural feel to the new holes.

Paul’s obvious enthusiasm for the game and the course can across during the course walk and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tour.

The golf format for the day was Individual Stableford playing for the “Doon” trophy.

1st place went to Martin Corinna (Launcest-on) with 30 points, 2nd went to Gary Tuckett (Wingham) with 29 points and 3rd place was Cameron McMorin (East Devon) with 26 points.

Devon & Cornwall

Nov 6th

Golf Course Design Seminar, Exmouth Section

Colde Valley Golf Club

Ian Wood Tel: 07952 470861

Nov 6th

Cylinder Maintenance & Gridding Techniques/ Bedding of Movo Bunker

Turnhouse Golf Club, Training Room, Main Viewing Facility

Scott Corrigan Tel: 07878 098237

Nov 6th

Midland Regional Conference

Forest Hill Golf Club, Leicester

Sandra Raper Tel: 07966 366996 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk

Nov 7th

Devon & Cornwall Section Event Bayer Cup

Woodside Golf Club & Country Club

George Petto Tel: 07952 754401 or Email: gjgits@gjgits.co.uk

Nov 7th

Northern Regional Conference

Phoenix Sports Club, Rotherham

Sandra Raper Tel: 07966 366996 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk

Nov 12th

STRO Regional Training – Pests, Weeds & Diseases

Moor Allerton Golf Club

Rachel Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@sttr.co.uk

Nov 12th

STRO Regional Training – Technical Turf Manage- ment – Part 1

Best Western Geddes House Hotel & Golf

Spa, West Scotland

Rachel Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@sttr.co.uk

Nov 13th

STRO Regional Training – Technical Turf Manage- ment – Part 1

Moor Allerton Golf Club

Rachel Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@sttr.co.uk

Nov 13th

STRO Regional Training – Technical Turf Manage- ment – Part 1

Castletown Hotel & Country Club

Rachel Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@sttr.co.uk

Nov 14th

South East Regional Conference

Thornbury Golf & Country Club

Ian Weller Tel: 07929 205398 or Email: inwo@biggaestanglia.co.uk

Nov 15th

South West & South Wales Regional Conference

Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset

Jane Jones Tel: 01454 270850 or Mobile 07841 948110 or Email: jones@bigga.co.uk

Nov 15th

Moor Allerton Golf Club

Ruton Trent Golf Club

Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366996 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk

Nov 15th

North West Section Event

Wilmow Golf Club

Chris Rheehan at Email: jshrehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Nov 20th

Machinery Supplier Day

Essex Section

Charnells Golf Club

Arnold Phipps-Jones Email: arnold.phipps-jones@threeriversclub.com

Nov 21st

North Wales Section Event

Oxestey Golf Club

Ie Hughes Tel: 07876 772665 or email: je Hughes099@ aol.com

×

Golf

on

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

January 22nd – 24th

register NOW to avoid the queues

visit www.bigga.org.uk
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The course was in fantastic condition and testiment to Paul and his team for all their hard work.

In total, 46 members and guests attended the day, with 24 playing golf and the rest on the course walk.

Paul led the course walk and took us to some of the holes that have needed to be moved and redesigned due to the cliff top erosion.

The main aim of the club is to ensure that holes are moved inland sufficiently enough to safeguard the future of the course for another 100 years.

The holes that have been affected have been moved and designed sympathetically to ensure that the undulating land feel has been kept and the character of the course not compromised.

This has certainly been achieved, it is a stunning course now, far surpassing the old one. The course is open from the 15th of March to the 15th of November.

Indigenous heather turf has been transplanted from the site to achieve heather mounds as stand-alone hazards and on bunker banks to give a natural feel to the new holes.

Paul’s obvious enthusiasm for the game and the course can across during the course walk and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tour.

The golf format for the day was Individual Stableford playing for the “Don Hunt” trophy.

1st place went to Martin Cornish (Launceston) with 30 points, 2nd went to Gary Tuckett (Werrington) with 28 points and in 3rd place was Camren McMorin (East Devon) with 26 points.

Nearest the pin on the 10th went to Gavin Moore (Launceston) and Longest Drive on the 12th went to Mark Downwing (Launceston).

Congratulations to all those that took part as what was very testing conditions.

Prizes for places were sponsored and presented by Mick Higgins and Jonathan Skohon of Sibilo.

Newcomers to the Pin and Longest Drive prizes were sponsored and presented by John Pulford (Sibilo) and we welcome all the newcomers to the Club.

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters for their continued support of the Section.

After a wonderful Carvery lunch, Paul Newcombe gave a short presentation talking through his collection of photos kept during the redevelopment of the course.

This was a great insight into how the decisions in terms of design and construction were made by the club with Paul’s influence and guidance.

A huge thank you to Paul, his team of greens staff and all the staff at East Devon GC for their wonderful hospitality throughout the day.

The Section AGM took place after this.

Two changes to the Committee this year, with Tony Goche (Glen River Golf, Tiptrottong) who is yet to be replaced.

The other change within committee was that Colin Webster (Purnmore Park) will be taking over the management of the golf course from Steve Harris (Ashbury).

Steve will remain on committee with the new role of Course Supervision.

Major topics raised were encouraging members to get involved with CPD and training opportunities and to comminicate to the Section and the Association any training needs required.

It was explained to the members how some of the funds that have been building up in the Section had been used to help subsidise training oppor-tunities including travel up to Harrogate.

Thank you to all who attended the AGM.

Minutes are available from the Section Secretary.

Our Christmas meeting this year will be staged at Ashbury Golf Club on Thursday 13th December and will run along the same lines as last year.

Details will be sent out nearer the time.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
Bigga Devon & Cornwall
07929 754941

gjitts.yerberton@gmail.com

South Wales

Good Afternoon all, where do we start? This has to be the real question. How is it possible to have so much rainfall in one season and we haven’t even entered winter yet. It is a frustrating time for all of us both trade and for you guys out there trying your very best to just even get the golf courses open never mind trying to get perfect shades on fairways and greens.

Members turning up with their latest power caddies wanting to take tuggies out may if anything have still got hair I’m sure your pulling your out.

But however much it gets us down just think of the American Ryder cup team 10-6 up in the golf going into the singles and the Sunday and the beating got 14.5-13.5 that must surely put a smile on our faces!

Our Autumn event has just taken place at Clyne Golf Club who say taken place well managed 3 holes some played 2 holes some even 9 but 1 group played all 18 holes (they must have been mad the rain was relentless) just 10mins after we teed off in all fairness to Tony and his teams efforts in placating, in high spots we had no chance of getting around without carrying a squeegee with us and the rain was constant for 5 hours.

For me it was a first look out onto the course at Clyne and I can’t wait to come back and play with better weather.

Thank you Tony for all your efforts in setting up the course and fingers crossed we can all come back soon and finish what we started.

The results though are as follows in 3rd place with 29 points Harvey Tribe fantastic to see Harvey back playing golf with us 2nd place with 34 points Andy “I had to finish” Roach and in 1st place with 35 points Mark “I’m not coming in with a score like this” Tucker congratulations all winners.

There has to be two more mentions, Easy Rich to complete the 4 ball but unfortunately did not get in the pairs but after 2 years without playing due to shoulder injuries a great effort and finally a welcome to Alan Hughes from Blackwood golf club a new member to BIGGA a hope he enjoyed the company on the snooker table after the golf rather than the 15 minutes on the golf course welcome Alan.

Before the golf we held our AGM the main agenda was to stay the same with no changes for the following year but the only changes are to be made to the golfing calendar. With pressure of work we feel that it is only right that we reduce the number of golf tournaments from 3 to 4 and move them to late October, December and the end of February / early March to coincide with the easier cutting periods.

We will have matches against the South West and North Wales during the season but exact times and dates to follow.

Also the Rigby Taylor Match play event with have a new look, it will still be a pairs format but will all be played in one day, full rules and dates to follow.

I would like to close on a few thank yous firstly to Clyne Golf Club for great hospitality, hosts with a fantastic meal after the golf and the course walk.

To Gareth Knight for the continued work he has done with STRI and the partnership to together organising the golf matches and our new annual dinner dance, our Patron in the section without the support you and your companies put in we may not run the way we do now and last but not least you guys the greenskeepers.

Without your time and efforts to attend golf and education events it wouldn’t be worth doing! Thanks everyone.

Many Thanks for reading any news or views please contact me at any time.

Rixin Birdgwood Peter H
Learn while you earn?

David Golding addresses the 'old chestnut' of why clubs looking to save money within budgets do so by first by reducing or withdrawing any staff training.

Many readers will be familiar with the phrase “learn while you earn” and I have referred to it before in this column.

However, this is another timely reminder to golf clubs as well as greenkeepers that, whether it be through a Distance Learning Course or an Online course, gone are the days when you would have to leave your workplace in order to gain knowledge relating to your job.

Several of the GTC Quality Assured Centres offer courses and qualifications through a variety of delivery options. Online learning is clearly becoming increasingly popular as technology has evolved with the internet.

Both vocational and higher education qualifications such as the HNC/D in Scotland and the Foundation Degrees in England are being achieved by greenkeepers and Course Managers whilst they continue to work.

Distance Learning whereby learning packages are mailed out from a college to the student, and returned for marking, is still a great option. I know for a fact that two of the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres are reporting interest from all corners of the globe for their Online and Distance Learning courses, which is a great testimony to their programmes and the British qualifications.

More and more of the GTC’s QA Centres offer online learning for those registering on work-based qualifications including the apprenticeship.

Some still prefer the off the job classroom style of acquiring knowledge but, as long as everybody has access to learning, the GTC believes is a great testimony to their professionalism.

The GTC’s Quality Assured Centres, the GTC is updating its Learning Materials which will be launched and available at HTME 2013.

The learning materials, based on best practices, have been reviewed through a special project which has been partly funded by The R&A and GTC and which will be available in hard copy, CD Rom and PDF format.

The learning materials are also circulated to all GTC QA Centres, with much of the information being compiled through specialist subject writers including Quality Assured Centre staff and Training Providers.

With so much access to good quality information on greenkeeping being freely available, and Centres and Training Providers offering everything from short courses to an Online Degree, it might be thought strange to hear that some golf clubs have actually stopped any staff training and now have no allocation of funds within their budget for training.

I find this puzzling but we have seen it all before.

When the economy crashed previously, it was those companies who invested in their staff that came out of the crisis stronger and quickest.

It isn’t as if thousands of pounds are required for a greenkeeping staff development programme.

Course Managers now, as the norm, train their staff on the job often with the aim of work-based qualifications supported by their chosen Centre while the more senior staff can apply for a scholarship through RBGA or a Rursary from The R&A to gain higher level 4 and above qualifications.

Initiative funding schemes for employers to train staff - including apprenticeships - all help as the GTC continues to work within the Government framework.

Many courses, offered by Centres, are, indeed, subsidised. The GTC does not expect all education and training to be free.

“Some golf clubs have actually stopped staff training and now have no allocation of funds within their budget”

Employers acknowledge they should contribute but it is a false economy not to encourage any staff development at any level.

It need not cost a fortune. Training can be a tremendous morale booster for an individual and additional skills and knowledge will always contribute to a team’s performance thereby adding productivity to the business.

I still hear the cry, “we train them up and then they leave”.

Well, that is not the end of the world.

The message that needs emphasising is that everyone is a valuable member of the team.

So, look after them and, if some move on, there is comfort that they are going because they have been well trained and that their replacements are similarly well qualified.

The opportunity of recruiting a new apprentice is all part of the cycle of greenkeeping.

For all the latest information on greenkeeper training including Distance Learning and Online courses, Quality Assurance of their registrars and Training Providers visit www.greenkeepertraining.com or www.the-gtc.co.uk.
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More and more of the GTC’s QA Centres offer online learning for those registering on work-based qualifications including the apprenticeship. Some still prefer the off the job/ classroom style of acquiring knowledge but, as long as everybody has access to learning, the GTC believes the greenkeeping profession is in safe hands through QA Centres and Training Providers.

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Managing any kind of plant whether it is a food crop, plants in your garden or sports turf, water is critical to sustain plant health.

The objective is to supply the plant with enough water when it needs it, to ensure healthy growth. This perhaps becomes more critical in managed turf, as frequent mowing and usage of the surface can lead to increased water loss.

When we consider sports turf, we also have to take into account that the amount of water in the soil or rootzone will directly influence surface performance and playability. Too much water and we are left with surfaces that are too soft.

Too little water not only results in significant plant stress, but also the risk that the playing surface can become too firm. Additionally, the excessive softening playing surfaces often leads to playability issues, in terms of increased wear damage as result of play.

This might be in the form of reduced grass cover due to foot traffic and to larger and more damaging pitch marks.

Yet another aspect of getting the water management in golf greens right is the impact that excessive water retention can have on agronomic characteristics.

The relationship between the invasion of annual meadow-grass and rate of soil organic matter accumulation with high levels of water retention has been well documented.

A vast body of research exists that has focused on the management of water in the soil. This varies from studies looking at different construction profiles and materials, through to the type and quantity of water retention amend-

ment mixed with sand to create sand-based rootzones.

All of this data is critical, as we need to understand the relationship between how greens are constructed and how they perform, in terms of water drainage and retention.

Less research exists on water inputs into golf greens. Irrigation systems exist so that greenkeepers can have some degree of control over water inputs.

To be able to effectively manage playing surfaces, there has to be a balance between water draining through a soil and being able to add water to the turf to ensure optimum playing quality and healthy grass growth.

How the input of water is achieved is open to some debate, with regard to the little and often approach versus more heavy water inputs applied less frequently.

What has then followed has been an almost biblical in proportion! Rain, rain and even more rain. This year has been, at least for some parts of the country, one of contrasting conditions.

Of course these options are not cheap, but if we can study the practicalities and the associated costs perhaps we can develop a reasonably efficient and cost effective system for these occasions when you know you want to be applying water but are severely restricted as to how much you can apply.

There is a real need to look at how we can recycle more water, especially water already captured by drainage systems.

This is where further research could be focused. We have to accept that the weather may become more unpredictable and the outcomes are that our weather may become more unpredictable and extreme.

The technology is there to help produce better draining greens, but what is more problematic is securing a reliable source of water to be able to irrigate when the grass needs it.

Of course there are options when you know you want to be applying water but are severely restricted as to how much you can apply.

The start of the year was significant drier in some areas than usual.

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The technology is there to help produce better draining greens, but what is more problematic is securing a reliable source of water to be able to irrigate when the grass needs it.

We have to accept that the future regarding climate change is uncertain and that one of the likely outcomes is that our weather may become more unpredictable and extreme.

In this scenario, serious thought needs to be given as to how we can better utilise the resources available to us. This means looking more closely at how water can be captured and stored on the course ready for use when drier periods occur.

It would also be interesting to look at how we can recycle more water, especially water already captured by drainage systems.

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Managing any kind of plant whether it is a food crop, plants in your garden or sports turf, water is critical to sustain plant health. The objective is to supply the plant with the enough water, when it needs it, to ensure healthy growth. This perhaps becomes more critical in managed turf, as frequent mowing and usage of the surface can lead to increased water loss.

When we consider sports turf, we also have to take into account that the amount of water in the soil or rootzone will directly influence surface performance and playability. Too much water and we are left with surfaces that are too soft.

Too little water not only results in significant plant stress, but also the risk that the playing surface can become too firm. Additionally, the excessive softening playing surfaces often leads to playability issues, in terms of increased wear damage as result of play.

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The relationship between the invasion of annual meadow-grass and rate of soil organic matter accumulation with high levels of water retention has been well documented. A vast body of research exists that has focussed on the management of water in the soil.

This varies from studies looking at different construction profiles and materials, through to the type and quantity of water retentive amendment mixed with sand to create sand-based rootzones.

All of this data is critical, as we need to understand the relationship between how greens are constructed and how they perform, in terms of water drainage and retention. Less research exists on water inputs into golf greens. Irrigation systems exist so that greenkeepers can have some degree of control over water inputs. To be able to effectively manage playing surfaces, there has to be a balance between water draining through a soil and being able to add water to the turf to ensure optimum playing quality and healthy grass growth.

How the input of water is achieved is open to some debate, with regard to the little and often approach versus more heavy water inputs applied less frequently. What I have tried to highlight so far is the importance of managing water inputs and output from the playing surfaces around golf courses. A large portion of what greenkeepers do is to manage the soil water balance.

Of course the other factor that cannot be overlooked is the good old British weather. This year has been, at least for some parts of the country, one of contrasting conditions. The start of the year was significantly drier in some areas than usual. What has then followed has been almost biblical in proportion! Rain, rain and even more rain. However, what this variable weather has highlighted is the need to build in a degree of resilience into golf courses.

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By this I mean creating and maintaining surfaces that can deal with heavy rainfall, whilst on the other hand ensure greenkeepers have the ability to apply water when they need to. One of the challenges that we all face in the near future is trying to get the water balance right.

The technology is there to help produce better draining greens, but what is more problematic is securing a reliable source of water to be able to irrigate when the grass needs it.

We have to accept that the future regarding climate change is uncertain and that one of the likely outcomes is that our weather may become more unpredictable and extreme.

In this scenario, serious thought needs to be given as to how we can better utilise the resources available to us. This means looking more closely at how water can be captured and stored on the course ready for use when dryer periods occur.

It would also be interesting to look at how we can recycle more water, especially water already captured by drainage systems. This is where further research could be focussed.

I believe there is a real need to look at how we can provide more water sources on courses themselves. Of course these options are not cheap, but if we can study the practicalities and the associated costs perhaps we can develop a reasonably efficient and cost effective system for those occasions when you know you want to be applying water but are severely restricted as to how much you can apply.
First Aid:
We have two first aid kits designed with outside working in mind. Each remote First Aid kit designed for this purpose includes a comprehensive range of first aid supplies, allowing for a high level of control and management of common emergencies, including injuries from falls, cuts, burns, and strain.

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Clubs and courses often require bunker lining solutions to improve greens and fairways, and our engineers specialize in this field. With our range of specialized bunker lining solutions, we can ensure the highest quality and performance for your bunkers.

Aeration:
Aeration is crucial for maintaining the health and vitality of golf courses. Using our powerful aeration technology, we can provide a wide range of aeration options tailored to your specific needs. This includes options for various terrains and applications, ensuring a high level of precision and effectiveness.

Terrain:
Our terrain management services include a range of options for Turf and Trees, Aeration, Drainage, Irrigation, and we also offer renovation services for greens and fairways. We have the expertise and experience to handle all aspects of terrain management to ensure a healthy and beautiful course.

Contact Us:
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**Assistant Greenkeeper**

Tyrifjord Golf Klubb is situated approx. 35km west of Oslo. Our 18 hole private members club was constructed in 1994 and the course is located on a beautiful Island on Lake Tyrifjord.

We are currently seeking a highly motivated individual to join our maintenance team in the following position:

**Assistant Greenkeeper**

You will be suitably qualified in the practicalities of producing a very high standard of presentation throughout the golf course. You will be proficient with the use of modern maintenance equipment including tractor driving and shall possess the ability to work on your own initiative but within a team role. Applicants shall preferably be Qualifed to NVQ level 2, have a minimum of 2 years working experience on a golf course or fine turf, have relevant spraying certificates or a chainsaw certificate. Knowledge of automatic irrigation systems would be advantageous.

Employment to commence April/May 2013

Accommodation can be discussed. An attractive package will be offered to the successful applicant.

For further information please call Ian Ross 0047 92264543 or email ian@tyrifjord-golfklubb.no
Tyrifjord Golf Klubb

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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For further information please call Ian Ross 0047 92264543

If you are interested in the above position then please apply in writing by 31.12.12 enclosing your c.v. and marking it CONFIDENTIAL To: Ian Ross, Head Greenkeeper, Tyrifjord GK, Storoya, Krokkleiva, Norway 3531
**Course Manager**

**Crown Golf** invites applications for the position of Course Manager at South Winchester Golf Club

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**Responsibilities:**

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- Management of the golf course's operations & maintenance

**Qualifications:**

- A degree in golf course management or a related field
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**Salary:**

- To be negotiated

**Apply:**

- Please send your CV & cover letter to: barry@stgeorgeshillgolfclub.co.uk

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**Purley Downs Golf Club, Surrey**

**Deputy Head Greenkeeper**

Purley Downs Golf Club offers some of the finest downland golf within the London region. Through recent changes in our operations we consider ourselves a progressive club and we are looking to strengthen our team.

**Role:**

- The successful applicant will be responsible for the day to day running of the golf course
- The position will involve a variety of tasks including the maintenance & development of the golf course
- The successful applicant must be able to lead, motivate & train staff
- The role will also involve the management of the golf course's budget & finances

**Qualifications:**

- A minimum of 5 years' experience in greenkeeping
- Excellent organisational & leadership skills
- Strong communication & interpersonal skills

**Salary:**

- To be negotiated

**Apply:**

- Please send your CV & cover letter to: neill@ipswichgolfclub.com

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**Ipswich Golf Club**

**First Assistant Greenkeeper**

Ipswich Golf Club wishes to recruit a First Assistant Greenkeeper to support the Course Manager and Deputy Course Manager in the day to day running of the highest quality golf courses in the east of England.

**Role:**

- The role will involve the day to day running of the golf course
- The position will involve a variety of tasks including the maintenance & development of the golf course
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- Excellent organisational & leadership skills
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**Salary:**

- To be negotiated

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**London & South East England Everris UK & Ireland**

**Turf & Amenity Technical Area Sales Manager – UK & Ireland**

**About us**

We are looking for a high-calibre individual to join our turf and amenity team in this exciting new role that covers London and the South East of England.

**Responsibilities:**

- Sales & marketing of turf & amenity products
- Field work & presentations
- Customer liaison & technical support

**Qualifications:**

- A degree in turf or agro-chemistry
- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills

**Salary:**

- To be negotiated

**Apply:**

- Please send your CV & cover letter to: richard.walton@everris.com.
Purley Downs Golf Club offers some of the finest downhill golf within the London region. Through recent changes in our operations we consider ourselves a progressive club and we are exciting new openings for enthusiastic and forward-thinking Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

Working alongside our existing Assistant Course Manager, the successful applicant will be an integral member of our maintenance and renovation operations, along with being able to train staff to a high level. The successful applicant will be the be available to work at suitable rates, candidates must be looking for a long-term development opportunity or to further their career and personal development.

We are looking for individuals to make contact with, course management. Purley Downs Golf Club is also renowned for its extensive junior development programmes, and are a wide range of opportunities available to interested individuals.

There will be a requirement for flexible working and spending time away from home on occasion.

For full details of the positions and how to apply, please contact General Manager, Purley Downs Golf Club, 106 Purley Downs Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 2BR.

Closing date: 30th November 2012.

Email: info@purleydowns.co.uk

CLOSING DATE: 30th November 2012.
The Back Nine
A new column for writers and members to air and share their views on golf greenkeeping topics

Bjarni Hannesson tells us how his trips to BTME triggered the formation of the Icelandic Greenkeeping Association

When one thinks of Iceland, a few things pop into mind: Björk and weird swan dresses, the world’s worst bankers and that ash-spewing-airplane-grounding-holiday-ruining volcano that no one can pronounce the name of. But did anyone say golf? Surely not.

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PHOTOGRAPH: An image from Bjarni’s former employers, Grindavik Golf Club

about the author

Bjarni Hannesson is the General Manager of the Grindavik Golf Club, Iceland’s top rated golf course and is vice chairman of the Icelandic Greenkeeping Industry Association. Connections have been made with companies, to make sure they get the most of the trip. Others had a solid meeting schedule at the bar with old friends.

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Bjarni Hannesson is a member of Grindavik Golf Club. He has an M.Sc. in Sports Science Management from Elmwood College and is a member of the Icelandic Greenkeeping Association.
BTME is back
for its 24th year, at the Harrogate International Centre, 22-24 January 2013

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