Inside...

The Open

Behind the scenes at Muirfield

Open Review Special

ALSO INSIDE... THE RICHMOND GC : TORO FINALISTS
An extraordinary final round 66 by Phil Mickelson to clinch the 2013 Open Championship at a sun-drenched Muirfield will live long in the memory of all those who witnessed it.

Great shot-making, ball striking, considerable patience and a quite brilliant putting display combined to produce a round that is already being talked about as one of the top ten major winning final day performances. It capped a super Championship played on one of the world’s greatest courses in absolutely immaculate condition. Course Manager Colin Irvine and his team presented a classic summer links test, the greens were firm and fast but utterly true, the rough was long but the test was fair. Unfortunately, as is so often the case these days, there was a hint of controversy. Stronger than forecast winds on day one drew some of the moisture from the putting surfaces meaning that green speed increased as play went on. This led to some criticism of the pin positions but also to some of the players being asked to give their views on the actual condition of the course. Indeed the eventual champion opined after round one that some parts of the course.  Indeed the eventual champion opined after round one that some parts of the green speed were actually dying! It is a concern that the watching public can take such comments at face value. But the following three days showed vividly that the course was in fact being beautifully managed by Colin and his team, with support from both the local support team and the additional greenkeepers that the R&A now bring in from Open Championship venues. The load cheers for the greensstaff at the final presentation spoke volumes for the overall presentation of the course.

For the 29th successive time the volunteer BIGGA Support Team played their part, and it was a great privilege to have the opportunity to spend the week with this year’s selected few. The variety in age and experience is vast but the enthusiasm levels are consistently high and I’m pleased to say that was true right up to the end - even though all four rounds were played out in energy sucking heat.

As always at this event there are a myriad of tales to tell, many of which are captured in the Review pages (pages 20-23) but one of the highlights for me was hearing of the generosity and welcome shown to our visitor from the US Sean Sullivan. After scheduling a few additional days in the area before the event, Sean utilised the BIGGA Bulletin Boards to contact greenkeepers in Scotland to possibly give a course tour or contribute a day or two’s free labour. The response was extraordinary with BIGGA members offering him bed, board and travel. Part One of his two-part account of a memorable trip is on page 66.

The Open Championship also provides a fantastic platform for BIGGA to engage with the many golfing bodies that govern and support the game of golf in the UK and beyond. The Chairman and I took the opportunity to meet with the Home Unions, the R&A and numerous other golfing associations during the week and productive discussions were held on topics as diverse as golf management education pathways, sustainability and golf development. As always at this event there are a myriad of tales to tell, many of which are captured in the Review pages (pages 20-23) but one of the highlights for me was hearing of the generosity and welcome shown to our visitor from the US Sean Sullivan. After scheduling a few additional days in the area before the event, Sean utilised the BIGGA Bulletin Boards to contact greenkeepers in Scotland to possibly give a course tour or contribute a day or two’s free labour. The response was extraordinary with BIGGA members offering him bed, board and travel. Part One of his two-part account of a memorable trip is on page 66.
A classic summer links test

An extraordinary final round 66 by Phil Mickelson to clinch the 2013 Open Championship at a sun-drenched Muirfield will live long in the memory of all those who witnessed it.

Great shot-making, ball striking, considerable patience and a quite brilliant putting display combined to produce a round that is already being talked about as one of the top ten major winning final day performances. It capped a superb Championship played on one of the world’s greatest courses in absolutely immaculate condition. Course Manager Colin Irvine and his team presented a classic summer links test, the greens were firm and fast but utterly true, the rough was long but the test was fair.

Unfortunately, as is so often the case these days, there was a hint of controversy. Stronger than forecast winds on day one drew some of the moisture from the putting surfaces meaning that green speed increased as play went on. This led to some criticism of the pin positions but also to some of the players being asked to give their views on the actual condition of the course. Indeed the eventual champion opined after round one that some parts of the course were actually dying! It is a concern that many, including Colin, opined after round one that some parts of the course were actually dying!

With support from both the local support team and the additional greenkeepers that the R&A were able to bring in from fellow Open Championship venues, the course was in fact being beautifully managed by Colin and his team, with support from both the local support team and the additional greenkeepers that the R&A now bring in from fellow Open Championship venues.

The Open is not the only show in town this month; hearty congratulations are due to Les Howkins and all at The Richmond Golf Club for winning Golf Inc’s prestigious ‘Renovation of the Year’ title against a strong field of other golfing associations during the week. The Open Championship also provides a fantastic platform for BIGGA to engage with the many golfing bodies that govern and support the game of golf in the UK and beyond. The Chairman and I took the opportunity to meet with the Home Unions, the R&A and numerous other golfing associations during the week and productive discussions were held on topics as diverse as golf management education pathways, sustainability and golf development.

The Open is the only show in town this month; hearty congratulations are due to Les Howkins and all at The Richmond Golf Club for winning Golf Inc’s prestigious ‘Renovation of the Year’ title against a strong field of competitors sporting many times their budget. A profile of the week – which involved a major overhaul of the course - begins on page 34.

Enjoy the read.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO
AUGUST 2013

FEATURES

16 The final eight
Find out who has won through to the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award

20 Behind the scenes at The Open 2013
How this year’s Open Support Team survived a red hot Muirfield

26 Visit the States
Apply to be a part of the next Bernhard’s BIGGA Delegation

28 A double edged sword for soil moisture management
We put Qualifirm through its paces at Kings Hill Golf Club in Kent

34 A Rich reward
How Richmond Golf Club won a prestigious award

40 You’ve got the power!
How to get the most from PowerPoint presentations

42 Brushing-in top dressing…the options
Laurence Fitchie examines methods used past and present for working top dressing into the turf surface

46 Hands on with ATT INFINiSystem
The verdict on the new greens mower from ATT

56 How well do you know your greens?
How the Greenskinner can help you monitor the performance of your greens

REGULARS

3 Welcome from BIGGA
6 Chairman’s Word
8 Newsdesk
12 Membership News
14 Learning & Development News
18 New Products
48 Around the Green
51 Puzzle Page
60 Buyers’ Guide
66 The Back Nine

Cover photography by Richard Jenkinson, Deputy Golf Course Manager at G West, and a member of the BIGGA Support Team at The Open 2013
The final eight
Find out who has won through to the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award

Behind the scenes at The Open 2013
How this year’s Open Support Team survived a red hot Muirfield

Visit the States
Apply to be a part of the next Berinhard’s BIGGA Delegation

A double edged sword for soil moisture management
We put Qualifirm through its paces at Kings Hill Golf Club in Kent

A Rich reward
How Richmond Golf Club won a prestigious award

You’ve got the power!
How to get the most from PowerPoint presentations

Brushing-in top dressing...the options
Laurence Pitfield examines methods used past and present for working top dressing into the turf surface

Hands on with ATT INFINI System
The verdict on the new greens mower from ATT

How well do you know your greens?
How the Greens tester can help you monitor the performance of your greens
Muirmfield signals a year to cheer

A fabulously sunny week at Muirfield marked a year for me as Chairman. The 12 months really have flown by, and now seems the perfect time to take stock of the last year, and look at and now seems the perfect time to...
A fabulously sunny week at Muirfield marked a year for me as Chairman. The 12 months really have flown by, and now seems the perfect time to take stock of the last year, and look at what the Association has done well on and the things we need to improve.

Becoming Chairman has given me a great chance to get in touch with members I don’t see very often. I have been surprised by a few things.

I think the regional roadshows broke down a few barriers, and the regional conferences were also well attended and very successful. One of the disappointments has been the lack of feedback from members to the roadshows. We know that members wanted us to go out and see them, which we did, but we haven’t had much response from them.

I think one of the reasons is simple – lack of time. I’m well aware that you are all hugely busy on your courses, particularly after the terrible weather last year, and I know this has also been the case when other events have not been as well attended as in the past. I understand the circumstances completely but my message hasn’t changed from the moment I became chairman – you get out what you put in and I urge you to attend as many sectional and regional events as possible.

The course at Muirfield was second to none, a true links course and the perfect test for the world’s best golfers – which was none other than the Ryder Cup.
TOUR FINALIST SAM IS RADIO STAR

Sam Evans, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Oakland Park Golf Club, appeared on Radio One recently as part of a regular feature called “Here all week.”

Early morning DJ DJev seemed fascinated by Sam’s job and the fact he is a finalist in the Tour Championship 2013. But DJev seemed to be under the impression that greening was a matter of landscaping and occasional hedge trimming…so it was over to Sam to try and educate him. His work has appeared on TV, radio or in newspapers let Steve Castle know and spread the word.

NEIL SALUTES 25 YEARS

Neil Faulkner, Course Manager at East Herts Golf Club, has manned 25 years at the parcland course and says he’s loved every minute. Neil joined the club straight from school and served a four year apprenticeship. He continued to work at the course - and his career - before becoming Course Manager ten years ago.

He said: “I used to watch The Masters when I was a kid and marvelled out how fantastic the golf courses looked. I thought ‘someone’s got to look after that, what a great job’ and that’s how it all started.

“I’ve loved every minute, the best thing about the job is there is a different challenge every day. Of course it’s very, very hard work and there’s so much to get involved with, for example today I’ve been painting fence posts. But when you get great feedback from golfers it makes it all worthwhile – we recently had a members match versus a local club and the visitors said the course looked superb, which was so satisfying to hear.

“But my main priority is to keep the people who pay their annual fees happy.”

He added that members had recently asked him where the club’s finances had been directed, so Neil and his team made a point of putting all their machinery on show during a competition.

He said: “They generally only see one guy on a mower so they were amazed we had so much kit when they walked past, and were amazed we had so much sunshine throughout the day.

The standard of golfer taking part was very high with more than half their field being single handicappers. Indeed it proved to be one of the lowest handicap tournaments in the performance of the day to win the Championship trophy. Gordon Sangster from Cathkin Braces Golf Club produced a magnificent gross score of 66 that included an eagle, 4 birdies and only 2 bogies. Gordon managed to get the turn in only 29 blows narrowly missing out on a short putt for the 28.

Not to be completely overshadowed by Gordon, Iain MacDonald on his home course recorded a great score of 69 gross and less his 2 handicap won us our Friendship Trophy with a nett 66. In addition to winning the trophies, Gordon and Iain will have their entries to the R&A National Tournament at Pirloed Heath paid for and will receive expenses towards travel and accommodation.

There was one common theme shared by all competitors on the day: their unequivocal praise of the golf course condition. Our whole-hearted congratulations are reserved for Iain Barr, Course Manager and his team for producing an excellent facility for the competition. Even the tricky position of the 18th flag, thanks to George Morrison for that one, didn’t diminish the players’ admiration of the course.

Throughout our day we were treated to a very warm welcome by Keith Howie (Professional) and the other members of the team.

Andy O’Hara, Scottish Chairman, was on hand at the end of the day to thank the captain Brian Fulton, the committee, Keith and everyone else for the tremendous hospitality that was received and presented a Quaich to the club as a thank you for the courtesy of the course and clubhouse. Keith thanked Andy and reaffirmed the club’s delight at hosting this event and for the hard work of all greening staff required at golf courses throughout the country.

Congratulations to all who took part and we hope to see everyone at next year’s championship at Renfrew Golf Club on Thursday 12 June.

JOHN’S CHARITY WHIZZ

John Hall, Golf Course Manager at Tewkesbury Park Hotel & Country Club, is running a half marathon for charity on October 6.

John’s best friend has a son with Cerebral Palsy and is restricted to a wheelchair, and has been helped out by ‘Whizz Kids’ - a charity who help kids who have mobility issues.

John said: “Seeing the cost of my friend’s son’s chair when you get great feedback from everyone who is involved with, for example today I’ve been painting fence posts. But when you get great feedback from...”

ROUTE 66 WINS SCOTTISH NATIONAL

This year’s Scottish National Tournament was hosted by Largs Golf Club on Thursday 13 June and drew an excellent 62 competitors from all over Scotland who benefited from glorious sunshine throughout the day.

A parcland course, it was originally designed as a 9-hole course before becoming a full 18-holer in 1953. Playing to its full length from medal tees it covers some 6150 yards with a par of 70 and a CBS of 71.

This year, we had our own version of Ivor Robson on the first tee to announce each player. John Sheddon has worked with the PGA on a number of their events and kindly agreed to participate adding a touch of class to proceedings.

First on tee at 11.15am was a guest, Gordon Clarke from West Kilbride Golf Club. Subsequent guests then lined up every 9 minutes until the very last guest at 2.15pm comprising an East/ West combination of Gregor Wilson (Turnberry) and Robbie Murdoch (Douglas Park).

The standard of golfer taking part was very high with more than half their field being single handicappers. Indeed it proved to be one of the lowest handicap tournaments that turned in the performance of the day to win the Championship trophy. Gordon Sangster from Cathkin Braces Golf Club produced a magnificent gross score of 66 that included an eagle, 4 birdies and only 2 bogies. Gordon managed to get the turn in only 29 blows narrowly missing out on a short putt for the 28.

Not to be completely overshadowed by Gordon, Iain MacDonald on his home course recorded a great score of 69 gross and less his 2 handicap won us our Friendship Trophy with a nett 66. In addition to winning the trophies, Gordon and Iain will have their entries to the R&A National Tournament at Pirloed Heath paid for and will receive expenses towards travel and accommodation.

There was one common theme shared by all competitors on the day: their unequivocal praise of the golf course condition. Our whole-hearted congratulations are reserved for Iain Barr, Course Manager and his team for producing an excellent facility for the competition. Even the tricky position of the 18th flag, thanks to George Morrison for that one, didn’t diminish the players’ admiration of the course.
NEIL SALUTES 25 YEARS

Neil Paulie, Course Manager at East Herts Golf Club, has marked 25 years at the parkland course and says he’s loved every minute. Neil joined the club straight from school and served a four-year apprenticeship. He continued to work at the course - and his career - before becoming Course Manager ten years ago. He said: “I used to watch The Masters when I was a kid and marvelled how fantastic the golf courses looked. I thought ‘someone’s got to look after that, what a great job’ and that’s how it all started.

“I’ve loved every minute, the best thing about the job is there is a different challenge every day. Of course it’s very, very hard work and there’s so much to get involved with, for example today I’ve been painting fence posts. But when you get great feedback from golfers it makes it all worthwhile - we recently had a members match versus a local club and the visitors said the course looked superb, which was so satisfying to hear.

“But my main priority is to keep the people who pay their annual fees happy.”

He added that members had recently asked him where the club’s finances had been directed, so Neil and his team made a point of putting all their machinery on show during a competition.

He said: “They generally only see one guy on a mower so they were amazed we had so much kit when they walked past, and began to understand where their membership fees were spent.

“It’s all part of communicating with them, because if they don’t like the club they will leave simple as that.”

TORO FINALIST SAM IS RADIO STAR

Sam Evans, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Oakland Park Golf Club, appeared on Radio One recently as part of a regular feature called “Here all week.”

Early morning DJ Dev seemed fascinated by Sam’s job and the fact he is a finalist for the Toro Student of the Year 2013. But Dev seemed to be under the impression that greenkeeping was like the club they will leave, and also buy ramps. This charity helps kids who have mobility issues.

‘Whizz Kidz’ - a charity who help kids who have mobility issues, accommodation.

This year’s Scottish National Tournament was hosted by Largs Golf Club on Thursday 13 June and drew an excellent 62 competitors from all over Scotland who benefitted from glorious sunshine throughout the day.

A parkland course, it was originally designed as a 9-hole course before becoming a full 18-holer in 1953. Playing to its full length from medal tees it covers some 6150 yards with a par of 70 and a CBS of 71.

This year, we had our own version of Ivo Robson on the first tee to announce each player. John Steddon has worked with the PGA on a number of their events and kindly agreed to participate adding a touch of class to proceedings.

First on tee at 11.15am was a guest, Gordon Clarke from West Kilbride Golf Club. Subsequent games then took every 9 minutes until the very last game at 2.15pm comprising an East/ West combination of Gregor Wilson (Turnberry) and Robbie Murdoch (Dundas Park).

The standard of golfer taking part was very high with more than half their field being single handicappers. Indeed it proved to be one of the lowest handicappers that turned in the performance of the day to win the Championship trophy. Gordon Sangster from Cathkin Braes Golf Club produced a magnificent gross score of 66 that included an eagle, 4 birdies and only 2 bogies. Gordon managed to get into the turn in only 29 blows narrowly missing out on a short putt for the 28.

Not to be completely overshadowed by Gordon, Iain MacDonald on his home course recorded a great score of 68 gross and less his 2 handicap won our Friendship Trophy with a nett 66. In addition to winning the trophies, Gordon and Iain will have their entries to the BIGGA National Tournament at Peedee Heath paid for and will receive expenses towards travel and accommodation.

There was one common theme shared by all competitors on the day, their unequivocal praise of the golf course condition. Our whole-hearted congratulations are reserved for Iain Barr, Course Manager and his team for producing an excellent facility for the competition. Even the tricky position of the 18th flag, thanks to George Morrison for that one, didn’t diminish the players’ admiration of the course.

Throughout our day we were treated to a very warm welcome by Keith Howie (Professional) and the other members of the team.

Andy O’Hara, Scottish Chairman, was on hand at the end of the day to thank the captain Brian Fulton, the committee, Keith and everyone else for the tremendous hospitality that was received and presented a Quaich to the club as a thank you for the courtesy of the course and clubhouse. Keith thanked Andy and reaffirmed the club’s delight at hosting this event and for the hard work of all greenkeeping staff required at golf courses throughout the country.

Congratulations to all who took part and we hope to see everyone at next year’s championship at Royal Golf Club on Thursday 12 June.

John Young
INNOVATION CORNER!

We’re still hunting for the unusual innovations greenkeepers have on their courses – and Stuart Yarrow, Course Manager at Lymnn Golf Club, has several! He said: “When out deep sitting weekly during the winter we found the slitter removes the dew off the greens but left a little strip one inch wide in between the rear rollers. One of our lads, Robert Cooper, fitted a scrap piece of astro turf to cover the gap, and brush the little strip of dew off as he went along. Leaving the surface right for our visitors and members.”

“The next is our drainage trench gravel filling machine, or ‘Nellie’ as we call her, [after the elephant].” It’s a piece of plywood attached to traffic cone with a length of hose bolted on. We can drop the tail board on the workman and fit this in seconds. Then when we have excavated our drainage trenches, and installed the pipe, we can back fill the trench, by straddling the trench with the workman, with large or small gravel in a fraction of the time by hand and without spilling a drop. Saves on shovels and backs.”

“Thirdly, we found that some drains were capping over with grass clippings, wear and tear over time, and we needed to uncap these. We tried with half moons and by hand but it was very slow. We needed to uncap down 6” till we hit the clean gravel then we could replace with clean slate and restore the effectiveness of the drain.

“So we purchased an old Sisis turf cutter (18” wide turf) and chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5” wide. We chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5” wide. We chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5” wide. We chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5” wide. We chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5” wide. We chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5” wide. We chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5” wide.”

“Fourthly, we found that some drains were capping over with grass clippings, wear and tear over time, and we needed to uncap these. We tried with half moons and by hand but it was very slow. We needed to uncap down 6” till we hit the clean gravel then we could replace with clean slate and restore the effectiveness of the drain.

“Then mark the drain line by finding the gravel line in the ground with a probe, and mark the centre. We mark the centre of the tractor bonnet, we drop the implement into the ground and it shaves out the waste material on top of the drain line to a depth of 6” to clean gravel.

“This is simply forked off onto a waiting cart and away to our compost heap. Really saves a monumental amount of time in a soul destroying task. I feel it’s hugely important to find an efficient way of doing tasks both from an operations and moral point of view.”

GI NEWSDESK

JIMMY LEAVES NORTH EAST SECTION

Jimmy Richardson has left the North East Section after many years of service. He said: “Having served as Section Secretary I decided to retire from all section duties and would like to take this opportunity to thank my Committee members for their support over the years.”

“Special mention to my other two helpers Steve Pope and Russ Black. Steve has also decided to retire but Russ is staying on as Section Chairman.”

“Now we have a young energetic Committee taking over headed by Simon Oliver of Percy Wood GC I would ask all members to give him a bit of support as he’s working very hard on pushing the Section forward. Other members are Glen Baxter, Michael Onna, David Wilkinson and James Parker.

“New competitions are being arranged as well as lectures and seminars for the Autumn and Winter so please support the North East Section as much as you can.”

GI NEWSDESK

CHALARA ASH LATES

Dr Terry Mabbett updates us with the recent news about Chalara dieback

This month’s featured blog is from high drama, Head Greenkeeper at Trentham Park Golf Club. He started the blog using ‘blogger’ in January 2009 and it has already had over 7,000 views – plus it’s improving all the time. Other members are Glen Baxter, Michael Onna, David Wilkinson and James Parker.

“This month’s featured blog is from high drama, Head Greenkeeper at Trentham Park Golf Club. He started the blog using ‘blogger’ in January 2009 and it has already had over 7,000 views – plus it’s improving all the time. Other members are Glen Baxter, Michael Onna, David Wilkinson and James Parker. ‘New competitions are being arranged as well as lectures and seminars for the Autumn and Winter so please support the North East Section as much as you can.’

Chalara dieback has been firing warning shots at the UK government’s management plans but the two latest salvos were right on target.

The first shot came from the three main planks of Defra’s Chalara Management Plan below the water line, while the salvo from Devon was a top deck direct hit.

First main plank of Defra’s Chalara Management Plan (March 2013) is the creation of a disease free zone of counties around the western edge of England comprising Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Gloucestershire and up through the West Midlands.

Underpinning the programme is assistance to forest and woodland owners of recently planted ash confirmed with chalara.

They will be given grants to dig up and destroy the ash trees and plant with alternative species. General idea is to slow the westward spread of the disease from current hotspots in East Anglia and Kent/ East Sussex.

Even if this generosity had been extended to the amenity and landscape sectors including golf courses (Greenkeepers International May 2013), and used to cover all recently planted ash (healthy as well as infected), success was unlikely considering this pathogen is disseminated by airborne spores and the sheer ubiquity and frequency of its common host.

Recent events are proving this thinking to be right. In May 2013 Chalara ash dieback was found in the wider Welsh environment at Ferrybridge (south of Caernarthen town) in Carmarthenshire. This leaves the door wide open for spores to be picked up and carried eastwards into western England by strong south westerly prevailing winds.

But that is all very ‘herring’ thinking since chalara was actually identified in the west of England wider environment in July 2013 in woodland between Exeter and Tiverton in Devon.

Forestry Commission (FC) did not reveal the exact location, although BBC Devon said the outbreak was at Byway Farm near Tiverton. According to the BBC, FC said the disease must have been on these trees when they were planted in 1996/1997.

This is highly unlikely. After 16-17 years the disease would have already spread far and wide. In 1996/1997 Chalara ash dieback disease was still confined to Poland and Lithuania, and unlikely to have arrived that early in the UK on imported planting material. In those 16-17 years it has moved westwards from Poland to reach Pas de Calais in France.

BLOGGING AT TRENTHAM PARK

This month’s featured blog is from high drama, Head Greenkeeper at Trentham Park Golf Club. He started the blog using ‘blogger’ in January 2009 and it has already had over 7,000 views – plus it’s improving the communication between Leigh, his team and the members.

He said: “After improving the clubs web site the year before I wanted a clear concise way of communicating to the membership.

“I also wanted to give them a way, and means of asking questions, and for me to answer them honestly and truthfully.

“I often get members stopping me on the course telling me how much they enjoyed reading it, and comment on how easy it is to understand. I think they appreciate the honesty.

“The thing that has worked out best is the ability for members to comment on the blogposts. So if they don’t understand anything they can always ask!”

“I think an important thing is not to ignore the complaints that come through. If the greens are bad then explain why.

“I use ‘blogger’ which is free and enables you to post pictures and videos to it completely free. It’s connected to your Google account so everything blends in well, and is easy to use.”

“What advice would you give greenkeepers thinking of setting up a blog?”

“Take your time deciding on what you want. Try to get it integrated into the club’s website, so it’s easier for your members to find.”

See for yourself at http://trenthamparkgolfclub.blogspot.co.uk
INNOVATION CORNER!

We’re still hunting for the unusual innovations greenkeepers have on their courses – and Stuart Yardwood, Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club, has several! He said: “When out deep sitting weekly during the winter we found the slitter removes the dew off the greens but left a little strip one inch wide in between the rear rollers. One of our lads, Robert Cooper, fitted a scrap piece of astro turf to cover the gap, and brush the little strip of dew off as he went along, leaving the surface right for our visitors and members.”

“The next is our drainage trench gravel filling machine, or ‘Nellie’ as we call her, after the elephant.”

“It’s a piece of plywood attached to traffic cone with a length of hose bolted on. We can drop the tail board on the workman and fit this in seconds. Then when we have excavated our drainage trenches, and installed the pipe, we can back fill the trench, by straddling the trench with the workman, with large or small gravel in a fraction of the time by hand and without spilling a drop. Saves on shovels and backs.”

“Thirdly, we found that some drains were capping over with grass clippings, wear and tear over time, and we needed to uncap these. We tried with half moons and by hand but it was very slow. We needed to uncap down 6” till we hit the clean gravel then we could replace with clean sand and restore the effectiveness of the drain.”

“So we purchased an old SISIS turf cutter (18” wide turbo) and chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5” wide. We now mark the drain line by finding the gravel line in the ground with a probe, and mark the centre. We mark the centre of the tractor bonnet, we drop the implement into the ground and it shaves out the waste material on top of the drain line to a depth of 6” to clean gravel.”

“This is simply forked off onto a waiting cart and away to our compost heap. Really saves a monumental amount of time in a soul destroying task. I feel it’s hugely important to find an efficient way of doing tasks both from an operations and moral point of view.”

JIMMY LEAVES NORTH EAST SECTION

Jimmy Richardson has left the North East section after many years of service. He said: “Having served as Section Secretary/dog sbody i have decided to retire from all section duties and would like to take this opportunity to thank past Committee members for their support over the years.”

“Special mention to my other two helpers Steve Pope and Russ Black. Steve has also decided to retire but Russ is staying on as Section Chairman.”

“We have a young energetic Committee taking over headed by Simon Oyer of Percy Wood GC I would ask all members to give him a lot of support as he’s working very hard on pushing the Section forward. Other members are Glen Baxter, Michael Gurr, David Wilkinson and James Parker.”

“New competitions are being arranged as well as lectures and seminars for the Autumn and Winter so please support the North East Section as much as you can.”

Chalara ash dieback has been firing warning shots at the UK government’s management plans but the two latest salvos were right on target.

“The first shot from Wales hit one of the three main planks of Defra’s Chalara Management Plan below the water line, while the salvo from Devon was a top deck direct hit.”

First main plank of Defra’s Chalara Management Plan (March 2013) is the creation of a disease free zone of counties around the western edge of England comprising Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Gloucestershire and up through the West Midlands.

Underpinning the programme is assistance to forest and woodland owners of recently planted ash confirmed with chalara.

They will be given grants to dig up and destroy the ash trees and plant with alternative species. General idea is to slow the westward spread of the disease from current hotbeds in East Anglia and Kent/ East Sussex.

Even if this generosity had been extended to the amenity and landscape sectors including golf courses (Greenkeeper International May 2013), and used to cover all recently planted ash (healthy as well as infected), success was unlikely considering this pathogen is disseminated by airborne spores and the sheer ubiquity and frequency of its common host.

Recent events are proving this thinking to be right. In May 2013 Chalara ash dieback was found in the wider Welsh environment at Ferrybridge (south of Caernarvon town) in Caernarvonshire. This leaves the door wide open for spores to be picked up and carried eastwards into western England by strong south westerly prevailing winds.

But that is all ‘red herring’ thinking since chalara was actually identified in the west of England wider environment in July 2013 in woodland between Exeter and Tiverton in Devon.

Forestry Commission (FC) did not reveal the exact location, although BBC Devon said the outbreak was at Byway Farm near Tiverton. According to the BBC, FC said the disease must have been on these trees when they were planted in 1996/1997.

This is highly unlikely. After 16-17 years the disease would have already spread far and wide. In 1996/1997 Chalara ash dieback disease was still confined to Poland and Lithuania, and unlikely to have arrived that early in the UK on imported planting material. In those 16-17 years it has moved westwards from Poland to reach Pau de Calais in France.
This month we look at how you can use our new link-up with Arco to kit you and your team out with discount workwear.

BIGGA and Arco Limited are pleased to announce a new partnership which will enable BIGGA members to take advantage of special terms agreed against a core range of products covering waterproofs, workwear, safety footwear, personal protective equipment, workplace safety items and Arco’s range of landscaping equipment.

As well as the terms agreed on a core range of items there are range discounts across the rest of Arco’s product range showing BIGGA members further savings.

Arco is the UK’s leading supplier of personal protective equipment, workwear and workplace safety products offering a world-class range of over 170,000 products. As experts in safety, Arco is widely recognised as a provider of specialist advice through their network of 42 locations across the UK and Ireland and is further supported by their own Training and Consultancy division, offering tailor-made safety and training packages. Each BIGGA member will have the support of a local Arco Account Manager who will be able to offer help and advice on product selection, standards and other general health and safety matters.

One BIGGA member who is a long-term supporter of Arco’s range is Peter Craig (bottom right) Course Manager at the Hurlingham Club in Fulham, who has 25 full-time staff.

He said: “We get all manner of items from Arco, mostly health and safety equipment from ear protectors to overalls, gloves to chainsaw helmets – you name it, we’ve sourced it from them and it really is top quality equipment. “They’re very efficient and quick to respond. Delivery is always within two days and they also offer a next-day delivery service which has proved very useful in the past. I genuinely wouldn’t hesitate to recommend Arco and their service to any BIGGA member, and I’m currently looking to place even more orders with them.”

If you already have a trade account with Arco the terms agreed will now be loaded against your account and you can start to benefit from excellent discounts on a choice of quality safety products. However if you do not have an account with Arco but would like to take advantage of these terms please complete contact your local Arco and request an account application form to complete and post back. You can find details of your local Arco at www.arco.co.uk using the branch locator tool on the homepage.

BIGGA TEAMS UP WITH ARCO FOR DISCOUNT WORKWEAR

BIGGA House
Tel: 01347 833800
(option 1 for Membership)

John Young
Mobile: 07776 242120
johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

Sandra Raper
Mobile: 07866 366966
sandra@bigga.co.uk

Clive Osgood
Tel: 01737 819343
Mobile: 07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

Scotland & Northern Ireland

John Young
Mobile: 07776 242120
johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

Northern & Midland

Sandra Raper
Mobile: 07866 366966
sandra@bigga.co.uk

South East

Clive Osgood
Tel: 01737 819343
Mobile: 07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

South West & Wales

BIGGA House
Tel: 01347 833800

Visit the BIGGA Stand at SALTEX - G98

BIGGA
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

BSH Grade ‘A’ grass seed mixtures.
Make a great approach.

For an excellent range of high quality fertilisers and seeds designed to meet the specific needs of the amenity industry, simply buy direct from the specialists at www.bshamenity.com
BIGGA TEAMS UP WITH ARCO FOR DISCOUNT WORKWEAR

BIGGA and Arco Limited are pleased to announce a new partnership which will enable BIGGA members to take advantage of special terms agreed against a core range of products covering waterproofs, workwear, safety footwear, personal protective equipment, workplace safety items and Arco’s range of landscaping equipment.

As well as the terms agreed on a core range of items there are range discounts across the rest of Arco’s product range showing BIGGA members further savings.

Arco is the UK’s leading supplier of personal protective equipment, workwear and workplace safety products offering a world-class range of over 170,000 products. As experts in safety, Arco is widely recognised as a provider of specialist advice through their network of 42 locations across the UK and Ireland and this is further supported by their own Training and Consultancy division, offering tailor-made safety and training packages. Each BIGGA member will have the support of a local Arco Account Manager who will be able to offer help and advice on product selection, standards and other general health and safety matters.

One BIGGA member who is a long-term supporter of Arco’s range is Peter Craig (bottom right) Course Manager at the Hurlingham Club in Fulham, who has 25 full-time staff.

He said: “We get all manner of items from Arco, mostly health and safety equipment from ear protectors to overalls, gloves to chainsaw helmets – you name it, we’ve sourced it from them and it really is top quality equipment. ‘They’re very efficient and quick to respond. Delivery is always within two days and they also offer a next-day delivery service which has proved very useful in the past. I genuinely wouldn’t hesitate to recommend Arco and their service to any BIGGA member, and I’m currently looking to place even more orders with them.”

If you already have a trade account with Arco the terms agreed will now be loaded against your account and you can start to benefit from excellent discounts on a choice of quality safety products. However if you do not have an account with Arco but would like to take advantage of these terms please complete contact your local Arco and request an account application form to complete and post back. You can find details of your local Arco at www.arco.co.uk using the branch locator tool on the homepage.

Arco is the UK’s leading supplier of personal protective equipment, workwear and workplace safety products offering a world-class range of over 170,000 products. As experts in safety, Arco is widely recognised as a provider of specialist advice through their network of 42 locations across the UK and Ireland and this is further supported by their own Training and Consultancy division, offering tailor-made safety and training packages. Each BIGGA member will have the support of a local Arco Account Manager who will be able to offer help and advice on product selection, standards and other general health and safety matters.

One BIGGA member who is a long-term supporter of Arco’s range is Peter Craig (bottom right) Course Manager at the Hurlingham Club in Fulham, who has 25 full-time staff.

He said: “We get all manner of items from Arco, mostly health and safety equipment from ear protectors to overalls, gloves to chainsaw helmets – you name it, we’ve sourced it from them and it really is top quality equipment. ‘They’re very efficient and quick to respond. Delivery is always within two days and they also offer a next-day delivery service which has proved very useful in the past. I genuinely wouldn’t hesitate to recommend Arco and their service to any BIGGA member, and I’m currently looking to place even more orders with them.”

If you already have a trade account with Arco the terms agreed will now be loaded against your account and you can start to benefit from excellent discounts on a choice of quality safety products. However if you do not have an account with Arco but would like to take advantage of these terms please complete contact your local Arco and request an account application form to complete and post back. You can find details of your local Arco at www.arco.co.uk using the branch locator tool on the homepage.
BIGGA ANNOUNCE OPEN-PANEL DEBATES AT SALTEX 2013

In addition to the free-to-attend BIGGA day-long series of education presentations at this year’s SALTEX (Sports Amenities & Landscape Trade Exhibition) national show at Windsor Racecourse, greenkeepers will find a number of open panel debates of interest as well as a showground packed with useful products, many of them being shown for the first time.

The free-to-attend BIGGA Golf Education Day (on Wednesday September 4, visit www.iogsaltex.com for details) will appeal to greenkeepers at courses of every size and type and will focus on drainage, bunkers, composts and disease management. A number of panel debates will also appeal, including the ‘Integrated control of pests, weeds and diseases: What does this mean in practice?’ Hosted by John Moverley, chairman of the Amenity Forum, the panellists for the session will include Paul Singleton, chairman of the Forum’s Education and Training Committee; Will Kay, managing director of Languard; and Sheffield Council’s David Wain.

As John Moverley says: “We are all aware of the need to take a more integrated approach to pest management but there remains many questions as to exactly what this means or how we can achieve it – including addressing issues of effectiveness, costs and environmental factors.”

Visit www.iogsaltex.com for more details of the BIGGA Education Day, the full programme of SALTEX panel debates, exhibitor profiles and to register to attend SALTEX for free.

Don’t forget BIGGA has a separate stand - G08 - at SALTEX. Come and see us!

NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE BIGGA LIBRARY

A series of management books have been added to the BIGGA Library. Published by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), they provide expert guidance on Managing Yourself and Others.

These books would be useful for anyone undertaking a management unit within their qualifications or for who have an interest in improving their management skills and knowledge.

Managing Yourself – this is for anyone who wants to further their career as a manager. Offering information on development and career planning; workplace relationships; managing time effectively; problem solving; decision making; managing your relationship with your boss and networking.

Managing Others: Teams and Individuals – focusing on selecting and building a successful team. Providing information on getting the right people; using verbal communication; teamwork; motivating, leading and delegating; conflict resolution.

Managing Others: The Organisational Essentials – this focuses on the organisational aspects of managing those people that you are responsible for. Providing information on the recruitment process; managing staff retention and turnover; 360° feedback; training and learning evaluation; succession planning; organisational culture; managing creativity; redundancies; managing the survivors and enabling a work-life balance.

Managing Others: Teams and Individuals – focusing on selecting and building a successful team. Providing information on getting the right people; using verbal communication; teamwork; motivating, leading and delegating; conflict resolution.

Managing Others: The Organisational Essentials – this focuses on the organisational aspects of managing those people that you are responsible for. Providing information on the recruitment process; managing staff retention and turnover; 360° feedback; training and learning evaluation; succession planning; organisational culture; managing creativity; redundancies; managing the survivors and enabling a work-life balance.

CMI Managing Yourself – this is for anyone who wants to further their career as a manager. Offering information on development and career planning; workplace relationships; managing time effectively; problem solving; decision making; managing your relationship with your boss and networking.

CMI Managing Others: Teams and Individuals – focusing on selecting and building a successful team. Providing information on getting the right people; using verbal communication; teamwork; motivating, leading and delegating; conflict resolution.

CMI Managing Others: The Organisational Essentials – this focuses on the organisational aspects of managing those people that you are responsible for. Providing information on the recruitment process; managing staff retention and turnover; 360° feedback; training and learning evaluation; succession planning; organisational culture; managing creativity; redundancies; managing the survivors and enabling a work-life balance.

Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: Steven Macoris
Age: 26
Club: Royal Dornoch Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: ‘big man’

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 9 years
2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Working outside, interest in maintaining sports turf areas, using machinery
3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be? snowboard instructor/Work in a ski resort in Austria
4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Cutting greens with a walk-behind mower because it is such a long job
5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Cupping greens with a walk-behind mower because it is such a long job
6. What one thing would improve the greenkeepers’ lot? More respect from the golfer and general recognition for what we do as greenkeepers.
8. Favourite Band? Changes but at the moment - Mumford and Sons
9. Who do you support? in golf – Paul Lawrie, Darren Clarke
10. What is your claim to fame? None as yet.
BIGGA ANNOUNCE OPEN-PANEL DEBATES AT SALTEX 2013

In addition to the free-to-attend BIGGA day-long series of education presentations at this year’s SALTEX (Sports Amenity & Landscape Trade Exhibition) national show at Windsor Racecourse, greenkeepers will find a number of open panel debates of interest as well as a showground packed with useful products, many of them being shown for the first time.

The free-to-attend BIGGA Golf Education Day (on Wednesday September 4, visit www.bigga.org.uk for details) will appeal to greenkeepers at courses of every size and type and will focus on drainage, bunkers, composts and disease management.

A number of panel debates will also appear, including the ‘Integrated control of pests, weeds and diseases: What does this mean in practice?’ Hosted by John Moverley, chairman of the Amenity Forum, the panellists for the session will include Paul Singleton, chairman of the Forum’s Education and Training Committee; Will Kay, managing director of Languaud; and Sheffield Council’s David Wain. As John Moverley says: “We are all aware of the need to take a more integrated approach to pest management but there remains many questions as to exactly what this means or how we can achieve it – including addressing issues of effectiveness, costs and environmental factors.”

VISIT www.bigga.org.uk for more details of the BIGGA Education Day, the full programme of SALTEX panel debates, exhibitor profiles and to register to attend SALTEX for free.

Don’t forget BIGGA has a separate stand - G98 - at SALTEX.

NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE BIGGA LIBRARY

A series of management books have been added to the BIGGA Library. Published by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), they provide expert guidance on managing Yourself and Others.

These books would be useful for anyone undertaking a management unit within their qualifications or for who have an interest in improving their management skills and knowledge.

Managing Yourself – this is for anyone who wants to further their career as a manager. Offering information on development and career planning; workplace relationships; managing time effectively; problem solving; decision making; managing your relationship with your boss and networking.

Managing Others: The Organisational Essentials – this focuses on the organisational aspects of managing those people that you are responsible for. Providing information on the recruitment process; managing staff retention and turnover; 360° feedback; training and learning evaluation; succession planning; organisational culture; managing creativity; redundancy: managing the survivors and enabling a work-life balance.

Managing Others: Teams and Individuals – focusing on selecting and building a successful team. Providing information on getting the right people; using verbal communication effectively; building trust; delegation and empowering your team; SMART objectives; how to motivate your demotivated; coaching and mentoring and how to manage conflict.

The BIGGA Library service is a membership benefit. To borrow any of these books, access the BIGGA Library via the Members area of the BIGGA website to place your order. Two books can be loaned for up to six weeks at a time. The books are sent out free of charge, however the borrower is responsible for the cost to return.
The finalists for the annual Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition, held at BIGGA House, have now been chosen. Here's the shortlist...

The final eight

Here are this year’s finalists for the coveted Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year prize, who will all be bidding to walk away with the crown at the final at BIGGA HQ next month.

Who will succeed Thomas Flavelle? Thomas has already enjoyed a superb trip to the States and secured another job since he won the award last year - showing what a boost it can be for your career.

Even being nominated is an achievement, so congratulations to the eight finalists.

The final consists of two intense days during which they will be asked to complete a written task focusing on the golf course here at Albury. They will be interviewed by a panel of judges from Toro and BIGGA.

The winner and two runners-up will then be selected.

The winner will head to the USA on an all expenses paid trip courtesy of Toro. This will last for eight weeks and include a six-week study course at the University of Massachusetts.

They will also get the opportunity to visit the GCSA's Golf Industry Show in Orlando (shown right) and attend Big Green Keener, an educational programme at BTME 2014.

To be eligible for the next award, candidates should be a greenkeeping student studying for a qualification up to Level Three. All entrants are nominated by their course tutor.

Thanks to everyone who entered, including those who did not make the shortlist – there’s nothing to stop you entering again next year. Good luck to all the finalists – the winner will be announced next month.

Thomas's travels

JOSEPH STACEY
Born: 24 May 1980
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: The Royal Dublin Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: University of Limerick

Joseph is new to the game and has chosen this industry with the support of his employer as well as the products they produce. Standing at the start of his golf journey, he has already been shortlisted for the Master Greenkeeper and also would like to work in the USA. He is currently studying a Sports Turf NVQ 2.

SAM EVANS
Born: 23 May 1988
Role: Deputy Head Greenkeeper
Club: Oakland Park Golf Club
Handicap: 24
College: Myresquough

Sam worked for some time at Heythorp Park where he passed a series of qualifications before recently moving to Oakland Park.

He wants to improve his mechanical knowledge, as well as becoming a Course Manager. He has a highly eventful few years as he holds a degree in Sports Management & Coaching and got married last year. He enjoys all manner of sports especially cricket, and is also a fan of football, golf and rugby.

LUCAS TURNER
Born: 5 May 1981
Role: First Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: The Royal Dublin Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Teagasc – College of Amenity Horticulture in Dublin

Paul began his career studying Mechanical Engineering but became hugely interested in turfgrass management, and in 2008 began working at Palmerston House Golf Club in County Kildare. He joined The Royal Dublin Golf Club in 2010 and after achieving his FETAC Advanced Certificate in Greenkeeping was promoted to First Assistant. He hopes to progress to Deputy Head Greenkeeper in time.

JOSHUA THORLEY
Born: 7 February 1985
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: The Richmond Golf Club
Handicap: 24
College: Myresquough

Joshua began his working life as a roofer but found his true calling as a greenkeeper after joining The Richmond in 2010. He is studying for his level 3 qualification, and is looking to work overseas and gain experience at working altitude and tournament. He would eventually like to progress to Deputy then Course Manager. He enjoys football, golf and runs his own sports clothing website.

SAY EVA
Born: 30 March 1986
Role: Head Greenkeeper
Club: The Richmond Golf Club
Handicap: 14
College: Myresquough

Sam worked for some time at Heythorp Park where he passed a series of qualifications before recently moving to Oakland Park.

He wants to improve his mechanical knowledge, as well as becoming a Course Manager. He has a highly eventful few years as he holds a degree in Sports Management & Coaching and got married last year. He enjoys all manner of sports especially cricket, and is also a fan of football, golf and rugby.

LUKE TURNER
Born: 23 May 1984
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Shrewsbury Golf Club
Handicap: 13
College: Reaseheath

Ben began greening in 2010 after initially working in manufacturing, and after a period of work experience at Shrewsbury Golf Club realised it was the right path for him. He has aspirations of becoming a Head Greenkeeper and also would like to work in the USA. He is currently studying a Sports Turf NVQ 2.

JAMES WALKER
Born: 29 April 1981
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Highwoods Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Plumpdon

James was working for a landscaping firm when he was given the job of returning the lawn on a local course, and became so interested in the course he secured a job as a greenkeeper. He then moved on to the job of foreman before joining the rolling parkland at Highwoods. He’s enjoyed this role hugely and has been supported by the club in his college studies. Outside of work he enjoys fishing, running and watching football.

SCOTT ROBERTS
Born: 15 September 1990
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Hambleden Common Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Missett Wood

Scott grew up at Hambleden Common and spent a spell of work experience at Queenswood Golf Club, where he became involved in a project of rebuilding all 18 greens. In 2011 he joined Hambleden Common where he works alongside his dad Michael. He joined the support teams at a series of tournaments including the BMW PGA at Wentworth and has joined BIGGA’s Surrey committee. Ultimately he would like to work abroad. He enjoys golf, football and darts.

LUKE EVANS
Born: 13 December 1984
Role: Deputy Course Manager/Mechanic
Club: Camm Hall Estate Golf Club
Handicap: 14
College: Myresquough

Kenn golfer Daniel started his career as an assistant motor mechanic before undertaking a Marine Engineering course. He then took on his current dual role at Camm Hall Estate and plans to start his Level 3 studies after completing his course and holds ambitions of not only managing a course but eventually undertaking the Master Greenkeeper qualification. As well as golf sporty Daniel enjoys cycling, football and cricket.

LUKE EVANS
Born: 13 December 1984
Role: Deputy Course Manager/Mechanic
Club: Camm Hall Estate Golf Club
Handicap: 14
College: Myresquough

Kenn golfer Daniel started his career as an assistant motor mechanic before undertaking a Marine Engineering course. He then took on his current dual role at Camm Hall Estate and plans to start his Level 3 studies after completing his course and holds ambitions of not only managing a course but eventually undertaking the Master Greenkeeper qualification. As well as golf sporty Daniel enjoys cycling, football and cricket.

DANIEL HARDY
Born: 29 April 1981
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Highwoods Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Plumpdon

James was working for a landscaping firm when he was given the job of returning the lawn on a local course, and became so interested in the course he secured a job as a greenkeeper. He then moved on to the job of foreman before joining the rolling parkland at Highwoods. He’s enjoyed this role hugely and has been supported by the club in his college studies. Outside of work he enjoys fishing, running and watching football.

DANIEL HARDY
Born: 29 April 1981
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Highwoods Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Plumpdon

James was working for a landscaping firm when he was given the job of returning the lawn on a local course, and became so interested in the course he secured a job as a greenkeeper. He then moved on to the job of foreman before joining the rolling parkland at Highwoods. He’s enjoyed this role hugely and has been supported by the club in his college studies. Outside of work he enjoys fishing, running and watching football.

JAMES WALKER
Born: 29 April 1981
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Highwoods Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Plumpdon

James was working for a landscaping firm when he was given the job of returning the lawn on a local course, and became so interested in the course he secured a job as a greenkeeper. He then moved on to the job of foreman before joining the rolling parkland at Highwoods. He’s enjoyed this role hugely and has been supported by the club in his college studies. Outside of work he enjoys fishing, running and watching football.

JAMES WALKER
Born: 29 April 1981
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Highwoods Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Plumpdon

James was working for a landscaping firm when he was given the job of returning the lawn on a local course, and became so interested in the course he secured a job as a greenkeeper. He then moved on to the job of foreman before joining the rolling parkland at Highwoods. He’s enjoyed this role hugely and has been supported by the club in his college studies. Outside of work he enjoys fishing, running and watching football.

JAMES WALKER
Born: 29 April 1981
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Highwoods Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Plumpdon

James was working for a landscaping firm when he was given the job of returning the lawn on a local course, and became so interested in the course he secured a job as a greenkeeper. He then moved on to the job of foreman before joining the rolling parkland at Highwoods. He’s enjoyed this role hugely and has been supported by the club in his college studies. Outside of work he enjoys fishing, running and watching football.

JAMES WALKER
Born: 29 April 1981
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Highwoods Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Plumpdon

James was working for a landscaping firm when he was given the job of returning the lawn on a local course, and became so interested in the course he secured a job as a greenkeeper. He then moved on to the job of foreman before joining the rolling parkland at Highwoods. He’s enjoyed this role hugely and has been supported by the club in his college studies. Outside of work he enjoys fishing, running and watching football.

JAMES WALKER
Born: 29 April 1981
Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: Highwoods Golf Club
Handicap: 6
College: Plumpdon

James was working for a landscaping firm when he was given the job of returning the lawn on a local course, and became so interested in the course he secured a job as a greenkeeper. He then moved on to the job of foreman before joining the rolling parkland at Highwoods. He’s enjoyed this role hugely and has been supported by the club in his college studies. Outside of work he enjoys fishing, running and watching football.
Here are this year’s finalists for the coveted Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year prize, who will all be bidding to walk away with the crown at the final at BIGGA HQ next month.

Who will succeed Thomas Flavelle? Thomas has already enjoyed a superb trip to the States and secured another job since he won the award last year – showing what a boost it can be for your career.

Even being nominated is an achievement, so congratulations to the eight finalists.

The final consists of two intense days during which they will be asked to complete a written task focusing on the golf course here at Aldbrough. They will be interviewed by a panel of judges from Toro and BIGGA.

The winner and two runners-up will then be selected.

The winner will head to the USA, on an all expenses paid trip courtesy of Toro. This will last for eight weeks and will provide a study course at the University of Massachusetts.

They will also get the opportunity to visit the GCSAA’s Golf Industry Show in Orlando (shown right) and explore Toro’s base in California.

The runners-up will receive a trip paid to the Continue to Learn course in Orlando, Florida. They will visit and interview a panel of judges from the Toro and BIGGA.

To be eligible for the next award, candidates should be a greenkeeping student studying for a qualification up to Level Three. All entrants are nominated by their course tutors.

Thanks to everyone who entered, including those who did not make the shortlist - there’s nothing to stop you entering again next year. Good luck to all the finalists – the winner will be announced next month.

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2013

The final eight

The finalists for the annual Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition, held at BIGGA House, have now been chosen. Here’s the shortlist...

Here are this year’s finalists for the coveted Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year prize, who will all be bidding to walk away with the crown at the final at BIGGA HQ next month.

Who will succeed Thomas Flavelle? Thomas has already enjoyed a superb trip to the States and secured another job since he won the award last year – showing what a boost it can be for your career.

Even being nominated is an achievement, so congratulations to the eight finalists.

The final consists of two intense days during which they will be asked to complete a written task focusing on the golf course here at Aldbrough. They will be interviewed by a panel of judges from Toro and BIGGA.

The winner and two runners-up will then be selected.

The winner will head to the USA, on an all expenses paid trip courtesy of Toro. This will last for eight weeks and will provide a study course at the University of Massachusetts.

They will also get the opportunity to visit the GCSAA’s Golf Industry Show in Orlando (shown right) and explore Toro’s base in California.

The runners-up will receive a trip paid to the Continue to Learn course in Orlando, Florida. They will visit and interview a panel of judges from the Toro and BIGGA.

To be eligible for the next award, candidates should be a greenkeeping student studying for a qualification up to Level Three. All entrants are nominated by their course tutors.

Thanks to everyone who entered, including those who did not make the shortlist - there’s nothing to stop you entering again next year. Good luck to all the finalists – the winner will be announced next month.

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2013

The final eight

The finalists for the annual Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition, held at BIGGA House, have now been chosen. Here’s the shortlist...

Here are this year’s finalists for the coveted Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year prize, who will all be bidding to walk away with the crown at the final at BIGGA HQ next month.

Who will succeed Thomas Flavelle? Thomas has already enjoyed a superb trip to the States and secured another job since he won the award last year – showing what a boost it can be for your career.

Even being nominated is an achievement, so congratulations to the eight finalists.

The final consists of two intense days during which they will be asked to complete a written task focusing on the golf course here at Aldbrough. They will be interviewed by a panel of judges from Toro and BIGGA.

The winner and two runners-up will then be selected.

The winner will head to the USA, on an all expenses paid trip courtesy of Toro. This will last for eight weeks and will provide a study course at the University of Massachusetts.

They will also get the opportunity to visit the GCSAA’s Golf Industry Show in Orlando (shown right) and explore Toro’s base in California.

The runners-up will receive a trip paid to the Continue to Learn course in Orlando, Florida. They will visit and interview a panel of judges from the Toro and BIGGA.

To be eligible for the next award, candidates should be a greenkeeping student studying for a qualification up to Level Three. All entrants are nominated by their course tutors.

Thanks to everyone who entered, including those who did not make the shortlist - there’s nothing to stop you entering again next year. Good luck to all the finalists – the winner will be announced next month.
NEW PRODUCTS
The latest products on the market reviewed

NEW TYM COMPACT MAKES BIG IMPACT

Chipping Sodbury has become the latest golf club to choose a TYM compact tractor, for work around its 18-hole Cotswold course. It is one of a growing number of clubs that have opted for a TYM tractor from Toro distributor Lely UK when buying new Toro turf equipment and irrigation products.

Models range from 23hp to 100hp to cater to a wide variety of needs, but Lely says the 40hp and 50hp tractors are particularly suited to the turf sector. The 43hp T433 model, with its working speed of almost 20mph making it ideal for general turf maintenance duties, is a particular favourite with turf managers. And this was the model chosen by Chipping Sodbury, whose course manager John Kennaugh says he’s been like “a schoolboy in a sweet shop” with his new machine!

“The hydrostatic power-steering fulfils a lot of turning radius, making it easy to use and ensuring no tyre marks are left on the greens,” says John. “We bought the mid-duty 43hp model which is efficient and well suited for golf clubs.”

SISIS TO SHOWCASE THREE NEW PRODUCTS AT SALTEX

Always a popular stop with groundcare professionals at IOG SALTEX, SISIS will be showcasing three new products for the 2013 show.

Two models of the Multivator, both heavy duty and compact, will be on show – and demonstrated - as well as the new BLEC Power Box Rake powered by the Avant Skid Steer unit.

The Multivator is a multi-use machine carrying out a wide range of turf achieved with only one drive unit. Decomposting, soil recycling and topdressing all in one pass, the Multivator has quick hook-on rear attachments, an easy-change blade system and heavy duty reversible drive system.

Also on the stand will be the laser-guided BLEC Power Box Rake heavy duty version for tractors – cultivating, pulverising, earth moving, grading and stonepicking all in one tough machine for landscapers.

The Disc Seeder (heavy duty), Multi Seeder, Cultpack Seeder and Star Seeder will all be on show and the contractor’s favourite, the BLEC Laser Grader, will also be on display.

BLEC GLOBAL will use IOG SALTEX at Windsor to show a wider range of products for the groundcare, landscaping and sportsturf marketplace.

Two models of the Multivator, both heavy duty and compact, will be on show – and demonstrated - as well as the new BLEC Power Box Rake powered by the Avant Skid Steer unit.

The Multivator is a multi-use machine carrying out a wide range of turf achieved with only one drive unit. Decomposting, soil recycling and topdressing all in one pass, the Multivator has quick hook-on rear attachments, an easy-change blade system and heavy duty reversible drive system.

Also on the stand will be the laser-guided BLEC Power Box Rake heavy duty version for tractors – cultivating, pulverising, earth moving, grading and stonepicking all in one tough machine for landscapers.

The Disc Seeder (heavy duty), Multi Seeder, Cultpack Seeder and Star Seeder will all be on show and the contractor’s favourite, the BLEC Laser Grader, will also be on display.

BLEC GLOBAL will use IOG SALTEX at Windsor to show a wider range of products for the groundcare, landscaping and sportsturf marketplace.

NEW FROM THE GRASS GROUP

Saltex 2013 will once again see The Grass Group exhibiting a good array of established machinery - and several new models too!

Pride of place will be ATTS’ Pedestrian mowers – the INFiNiSystem™. Recently awarded the Quiet Mark for its low noise output from the battery power capability, The Grass Group will be showing a brand new cutting cassette in the ‘Razer Cutter’. This cassette is twin-cartridge tipped and can be reversed in order to achieve a consistently sharp-cut. It will join the line-up of nine other cassettes to create the ultimate in turf maintenance.

Next up is the updated H7 blower from Netherlands manufacturer, Trilo. This three point hitch blower is your best choice when it comes to blowing leaves, litter, standing water and debris off sports grounds, fields, artificial turf, golf courses, urban and private greens and the like.

For 2013 a new model has been introduced where the standard hydraulic-operated 180 degree reverse spur is replaced with a straight output. This adaptation allows for use by any compact tractor as hydraulics will not be needed to move the reverse spur. In addition to a reduced purchase price, the unit becomes even more compact and will stay inside the tractor dimensionally.

Over in the Progressive corner The Grass Group will be demonstrating how the universal acclaimed Pro-Flex 120B has been re-designed to achieve a lower cost of operation. This contour mower has a 10 feet cutting width and is now equipped with rubber-damped, automatic belt tensioners and maintenance free bearings to increase belt durability and life. This modification also eliminates 25% of the greaser points compared to previous models and means that routine servicing is faster and easier - leaving more time for mowing!

As well as lower maintenance costs, the Pro-Flex 120B now has the industry exclusive Pro-Lift™ system as standard which allows the operator to independently match the deck height slightly off the ground without stopping and with the PTO still engaged. This makes it easier to operate than ever before!

GI
NEW TYM COMPACT MAKES BIG IMPACT

Chipping Sodbury has become the latest golf club to choose a TYM compact tractor, for work around its 18-hole Cotswold course. It is one of a growing number of clubs that have opted for a TYM tractor from Toro distributor Lely UK when buying new Toro turf equipment and irrigation products.

Models range from 23hp to 100hp to cater to a wide variety of needs, but Lely says the 40hp and 50hp tractors are particularly suited to the turf sector. The 43hp T433 model, with its working speed of almost 20mph making it ideal for general turf maintenance duties, is a particular favourite with turf managers. And this was the model chosen by Chipping Sodbury, whose course manager John Kennaughan says he’s been like “a schoolboy in a sweet shop” with his new machine!

“The hydrostatic power-steering gives it a wide turning radius, making it easy to use and ensuring no tyre marks are left on the greens,” says John. “We bought the mid-duty 43hp model which is efficient and well suited for golf clubs.”

SISIS TO SHOWCASE THREE NEW PRODUCTS AT SALTEX

Always a popular stop with groundcare professionals at IOG SALTEX, SISIS will be showcasing three new products for the 2013 show. The company will be launching a new pedestrian scarifier and will be bringing two redesigned products – the SISIS Dart pedestrian aerator and SISIS TM1000 tractor mounted scarifier to join the familiar range of British manufactured favourites on stand B40 from 3-5 September.

Working alongside existing end users, the SISIS Dart and TM1000 have both been redesigned to include ease of operation and functionality with the operator in mind.

The new pedestrian scarifier has been extensively trialled before its official launch at the exhibition and shows the improvement and investment in products that the company continue to make. Full details of the products are being kept under wraps until the first day of the exhibition.

BLEC EXPANDS RANGE AT SALTEX

BLEC GLOBAL will use IOG SALTEX at WIndsor to show a wider range of products for the groundcare, landscaping and sportsturf marketplace.

Two models of the Multivator, both heavy duty and compact, will be on show – and demonstrated - as well as the new BLEC Power Box Rake powered by the Avant Skid Steer unit.

The Multivator is a multi-use machine carrying out a wide range of tasks achieved with only one drive unit. Decompacting, soil recycling and topdressing all in one pass, the Multivator has quick hook-on rear attachments, an easy-change blade system and heavy duty reversible drive system.

Also on the stand will be the laser-guided BLEC Power Box Rake heavy duty version for tractors – cultivating, pulverising, earth moving, grading and stone picking all in one tough machine for landscapers. The Disc Seeder (heavy duty), Multi Seeder, Cultipack Seeder and Star Seeder will all be on show and the contractor’s favourite, the BLEC Laser Grader, will also be on display.

BLEC managing director Gary Mumby said: “SALTEX is a very important show for us where we get the chance to demonstrate all our innovations for turf and landscaping professionals.”

NEW FROM THE GRASS GROUP

Saltex 2013 will once again see The Grass Group exhibiting a good array of established machinery - and several new models too!

Pride of place will be ATT’s pedestrian mowers - the INFISysTem™. Recently awarded the Quiet Mark for its low noise output from the battery power capability, The Grass Group will be showing a brand new cutting cassette in the ‘Rainy Cutter’. This cassette is non-carbide tipped and can be reversed in order to achieve a consistently sharp cut. It will join the line-up of nine other cassettes to create the ultimate in turf maintenance.

Next up is the updated H7 blower from Netherlands manufacturer, Trilo. This three point hitch blower is your best choice when it comes to blowing leaves, litter, standing water and debris off sports grounds, fields, artificial turf, golf courses, urban and private greens and the like.

For 2013 a new model has been introduced where the standard hydraulic-operated 180 degree reverse spout is replaced with a straight spout: This adaptation allows for use by any compact tractor as hydraulics will not be needed to move the reverse spout. In addition to a reduced purchase price, the unit becomes even more compact and will stay inside the tractor dimension.

As well as lower maintenance costs, the Pro Flex 120B now has the industry exclusive Pro Lift™ system as standard which allows the operator to temporarily, in minutes, lift the decks slightly off the ground without stopping and with the PTO still engaged. This makes it easy to operate than ever before!
Behind the scenes at The Open 2013

The BIGGA Open Support Team tell the inside story of a red-hot Open Championship with their own words and photos from a scorching Muirfield
Behind the scenes at The Open 2013

The BIGGA Open Support Team tell the inside story of a red-hot Open Championship with their own words and photos from a scorching Muirfield
The 142nd Open Championship proved to be a real scorcher with the downsours of last year replaced by bright sunshine, at times intense heat and a true links look to the course. This all added up to a tough but fair challenge for the world’s best golfers, and Phil Mickelson’s 66 on the final day to secure the Claret Jug has already passed into the annals of golf history. Of course, the Support Team will be able to say “I was there”.

As well as the RIGGA Support Team, the home team headed by Course Manager Colin Irvine were assisted by a team of local greenkeepers from neighbouring courses at Gullane, Archerfield, Luftness and the Renaissance Club, plus a greenkeeper from each of the other Open venues and some on R&A scholarships.

On the very first morning Gary Salisbury from Broughshane Park Golf Club went out with Ed Chua, Miguel Angel Jimenez and the American Jimmy Walker. Gary said: “Jimmy seemed fascinated by my rake and asked how heavy it was and whether he could hold it. I replied that he could if he let me hold his driver to see how heavy it was!”

Gary Cunningham joined Justin Rose and saw a highly frustrating incident for the US Open winner: “He went to use the players’ toilet near the 6th only to find it was locked. He knocked on the door and a female spectator eventually came – she’d been changed in it. Rose’s face was a picture.”

John Keenaghan from Chipping Sodbury Golf Club saw an outrageous shot on the 9th during the Second Round: “Stephen Gallacher played his ball deliberately off a wall, on to the green, putted and made an eagle.”

The start of the Third Round saw two players struggle to make their 8.20am tee time. Michael Joyce from Moortown Golf Club witnessed the mayhem: “Carl Pettersson and Jonas Blixt were late and had to sprint to the tee chased by marshalls. The lack of preparation clearly didn’t affect Pettersson because he holed an iron shot from the fairway to eagle the 6th.”

As the crowds increased over the weekend, the team heard the occasional boisterous and bizarre shout from the public galleries. Adam Scott’s round on Saturday was followed by Richard Holmes from Crossland Heath Golf Club, and Richard said: “Scott was struggling on one hole and a fan shouted to his caddy Steve Williams ‘do something’. Williams replied ‘what more do you want me to do? He’s just won the Masters’.

The final morning saw a relaxed Peter Senior chat to Stuart Ferguson from Dundas Park Golf Club. Stuart said: “At the start of the round Senior apologised to me for the amount of bunkers he was about to go into in the end he hit six.”

The final day also saw drama at the 9th hole – but not the sort Jason Day was looking for. Gary Cunningham said: “Day backed off of one of the sand traps and someone shouted ‘six’...but it was ‘caught out’ by a fan!”

The random draw to see who would accompany which player rewarded Jaey Goodchild from Bowood Golf & Country Club with the once-in-a-lifetime chance to follow fellow Aussie Adam Scott around the links as he made his bid for the Claret Jug on the penultimate round of the week.

Of course, there was to be no Aussie celebration, but Jaey summed the experience up by saying: “It was an awesome week and I was privileged to be part of it. I love the atmosphere at big events and when you get a bunch of guys together who are all there for the same reason, with the same mindset, the team spirit is brilliant. I hope I get a chance to do it again one day.”

Michael Long from Littlestone Golf Club said: “I had a fantastic time working with superbly professional greenkeepers from around the country. I made a few good friends, and it’s great to spend time at such a highly prestigious golf club. Strangely great weather for Scotland as well which was a real bonus!”

Stefan Carter from Forest Hill Golf & Country Club added: “It’s been an amazing week with superb weather which has been a massive factor for us. It’s my first time doing anything like this and I can’t wait to do it again. I raked for Lee Westwood which was a privilege – the only disappointment for me was he didn’t win it so I can’t say I was with the winner”

Andy Slingaby from Halifax West End Golf Club said: “The organisation has been superb, everything about it has been first-class and it’s been a pleasure to be here. The weather’s been magnificent which has topped it off.”

Jamie Finch from Sheringham Golf Club said: “Where else do you get the chance to follow the world’s greatest players up the fairways? I’ve found all the players to have been friendly and a lot of us have got signed golf balls and gloves. It gives you a real buzz especially when the crowds are big.”
The 142nd Open Championship proved to be a real scorcher with the downsweep of last year replaced by bright sunshine, at times intense heat and a true links look to the course. This all added up to a tough but fair challenge for the world’s best golfers, and Phil Mickelson’s 66 on the final day to secure the Claret Jug has already passed into the annals of golf history. Of course, the Support Team will be able to say “I was there”.

As well as the BIGGA Support Team, the home team headed by Course Manager Colin Irvine were assisted by a team of local greenkeepers from neighbouring courses at Guilaine, Archerfield, Luffness and the Renaissance Club, plus a greenkeeper from each of the other Open venues and some on R&A scholarships.

On the very first morning Gary Salabery from Brunbridge Golf Park Club went out with Ed Cho, Miguel Angel Jimenez and the American Jimmy Walker. Gary said: “Jimmy seemed fascinated by my rake and asked how heavy it was and whether he could hold it. I replied that he could if he let me hold his driver to see how heavy it was!”

Gary Cunningham joined Justin Rose and saw a highly frustrating incident for the US Open winner: “He went to use the players’ toilet near the 6th only to find it was locked. He knuckled on the door and a female spectator eventually emerged – she’d been getting changed in it. Rose’s face was a picture.”

John Keenanagh from Chipping Sodbury Golf Club saw an outrageous shot on the 9th during the Second Round: “Stephen Gallacher played his ball deliberately off a wall, on to the green, putted and made an eagle.”

The start of the Third Round saw two players struggle to make their 8.20am tee time. Michael Joyce from Moortown Golf Club witnessed the mayhem: “Carl Pettersson and Jonas Blixt were late and had to sprint to the tee chased by marshals. The lack of preparation clearly didn’t affect Pettersson because he holed an iron shot from the fairway to eagle the 6th.”

As the crowds increased over the weekend, the team heard the occasional boisterous and bizarre shout from the public galleries. Adam Scott’s round on Saturday was followed by Richard Holmes from Croxall Heath Golf Club, and Richard said: “Scott was struggling on one hole and a fan shouted to his caddy Steve Williams ‘do something’. Williams replied ‘what more do you want me to do? He’s just won the Masters’.

The final morning saw a relaxed Peter Senior chat to Stuart Ferguson from Dundas Park Golf Club. Stuart said: “At the start of the round Senior apologised to me for the amount of bunkers he was about to go to in the end he hit six.”

The final day also saw drama at the 9th hole – but not the sort Jason Day was looking for. Gary Cunningham said: “Day barked a shot into one of the stands and someone shouted ‘six’...but it was ‘vaunted’ out by a fan!”

The random draw to see who would accompany which player rewarded Jaey Goodchild from Bowood Golf & Country Club with the once-in-a-lifetime chance to follow fellow Aussie Adam Scott around the links as he made his bid for the Claret Jug on the penultimate round of the week.

Of course, there was to be no Aussie celebration, but Jaey summed the experience up by saying: “It was an awesome week and I was privileged to be part of it. I love the atmosphere at big events and when you get a bunch of guys together who are all there for the same reasons, with the same mindset, and the team spirit is brilliant. I hope I get a chance to do it again one day.”

Michael Long from Littlestone Golf Club said: “I had a fantastic time working with superbly professional greenkeepers from around the country. I made a few good friends, and it’s great to spend time with them.”

The early morning prep team on the 10th

**TECH CORNER**

**The Muirfield team presented a true links course amid fabulous weather leading up to the tournament and during the Championship itself. Indeed, Support Team members who departed on the Monday after the tournament discovered that the weather had reverted to type with a steady drizzle accompanied by a cool breeze and mist, making the blazing sun all the more miraculous. The fairways were cut at 10mm and the semi rough, which was around 10cm wide, was cut at 50mm but not daily. The second cut of rough was cut at 117mm early June at 150mm and afterwards to seed. Before play the greens were double cut at 10mm and the semi rough to 3m wide. Off the greens the greens were at 11 feet first thing on Thursday, then 9 feet by the end of the week. Before the final round the greens were hand watered, as they were throughout. Before Friday and Sunday, some selected greens were hand rolled to bring them up to speed with others.**

**at such a highly prestigious golf club. Strangeley great weather for Scotland as well which was a real bonus!”**

Stefan Carter from Forest Hill Golf & Country Club added: “It’s been an amazing week with superb weather which has been a massive factor for us. It’s my first time doing anything like this and I can’t wait to do it again. I ruled for Lee Westwood which was a privilege – the only disappointment for me was he didn’t win it so I can’t say I was with the winner!”

Andy Slingaby from Halifax West End Golf Club said: “The organisation has been superb, everything about it has been first-class and it’s been a pleasure to be here. The weather’s been magnificent which has topped it off.”

Jamie Finch from Sheringham Golf Club said: “Where else do you get the chance to follow the world’s greatest players up the fairways? I’ve found all the players to have been friendly and a lot of us have got signed golf balls and gloves. It gives you a real buzz especially when the crowds are big.”

**BUNKER STATS**

Before the tournament began we asked all members of the Support Team to guess how many bunkers would be hit on each day, and the closest guesses with winners for each day and overall. Here are the results:

**Thursday** - 453 Closest Guess: 467 John Keenanagh
**Friday** - 577 Closest Guess: 571 Jamie Reeves
**Saturday** - 262 Closest Guess: 260 Steven Lloyd & Gary Cunningham
**Sunday** - 279 Closest Guess: 280 Adam Matthews

**TOTAL** - 1,571 Closest Guess: 1,531 Jamie Reeves
DIARY FROM THE OPEN
- PHILLIP SNELLIN

I'm a greenkeeper at Donaghadee Golf Club where I have also been a member for 20 years. When I got into greenkeeping I never dreamed I would have the best week of my life doing something I love. I applied back in January to work at The Open and when I was accepted I was so excited. I'd heard my Course Manager Aaron Small tell many stories about his time on the Support Team at Turnberry in 2009.

I flew to Edinburgh and as soon as I arrived was made to feel so welcome. It was great to talk to so many other professionals in the same field as myself.

Before I knew it, Thursday morning had arrived and I was on the tee with my rake at 8am with Jason Day, Martin Kaymer and Garrick Porteous - what a fantastic experience. When I returned to the BIGGA cabin close to the first tee I shared my story with other greenkeepers who had got back and also chatted with those who were excitedly waiting to go out.

On the Friday I got what I thought was the dream draw - Tom Watson, Fred Couples and Sir Nick Faldo! Just watching them hit shots is something I will remember forever. I didn’t think it could get any better than that until I was drawn to accompany game number 41 for the Saturday. The cut was at +7 for ages which would have meant I wouldn’t have had a game, but when it went to +8 I ended up with Tiger Woods and Lee Westwood. They are two of my favourite golfers of the modern era so being inside the ropes walking behind them is the greatest moment of my golfing life bar none. What a day it was watching them play and I only had seven bunkers to rake behind them.

On the Sunday I was with Boo Weekley and Thongchai Jaidee who were really nice guys and chatted to us walking up the fairways. After the game was over I retired to the BIGGA marquee to watch the last few holes on TV before heading out for photos on the 18th fairway.

I have met so many greenkeepers who have become great friends, just chatting to them all and asking them about their courses and how they do things has been brilliant and I urge any greenkeeper to apply to work on a support team at a major championship and they will feel the same.

Lastly I want to say a massive thank you to Donaghadee Golf Club and all the BIGGA staff for their help and support in what has been the best week of my life and I will definitely be doing it again in the future.

Thank You from BIGGA

Once again, thank you to Sherriff Amenity for kindly sponsoring the internet in the BIGGA marquee keeping the Support Team connected. During the prolonged dry spell, several of the team used this facility to monitor their course irrigation so it proved to be an invaluable resource.

We are also very grateful to Ransomes Jacobsen for providing the rucksacks used by the team – this year they were mostly used to carry water and sunscreen rather than rain jackets! Also, many thanks to the R&A for working with us to support the entire team before, during and after the event.
I’m a greenkeeper at Donaghadee Golf Club where I have also been a member for 20 years. When I got into greenkeeping I never dreamed I would have the best week of my life doing something I love. I applied back in January to work at The Open and when I was accepted I was so excited, I’d heard my Course Manager Aaron Small tell many stories about his time on the Support Team at Turnberry in 2009.

I flew to Edinburgh and as soon as I arrived was made to feel so welcome. It was great to talk to so many other professionals in the same field as myself.

Before I knew it, Thursday morning had arrived and I was on the tee with my rake at 8am with Jason Day, Martin Kaymer and Garrick Porteous – what a fantastic experience. When I returned to the BIGGA cabin close to the first tee I shared my story with other greenkeepers who had got back and also chatted with those who were excitedly waiting to go out.

On the Friday I got what I thought was the dream draw – Tom Watson, Fred Couples and Sir Nick Faldo! Just watching them hit shots is something I will remember forever. I didn’t think it could get any better than that until I was drawn to accompany game number 41 for the Saturday. The cut was at +7 for ages which would have meant I wouldn’t have had a game, but when it went to +8 I ended up with Tiger Woods and Lee Westwood. They are two of my favourite golfers of the modern era so being inside the ropes walking behind them is the greatest moment of my golfing life bar none. What a day it was watching them play and I only had seven bunkers to rake behind them.

On the Sunday I was with Boo Weekley and Thongchai Jaidee who where really nice guys and chatted to us walking up the fairways. After the game was over I retired to the BIGGA marquee to watch the last few holes on TV before heading out for photos on the 18th fairway.

I have met so many greenkeepers who have become great friends, just chatting to them all and asking them about their courses and how they do things has been brilliant and I urge any greenkeeper to apply to work on a support team at a major championship and they will feel the same.

Lastly I want to say a massive thank you to Donaghadee Golf Club and all the BIGGA staff for their help and support in what has been the best week of my life and I will definitely be doing it again in the future.
Bernhard Trip

The 12th BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhard will be setting their sights on Orlando, Florida – and here’s how you can be on the plane.

February 2014 sees the world renowned Golf Industry Show head for the Orange County Convention Centre which will be showcasing all manner of new products.

The delegates will also have the opportunity to sample the show’s superb educational programme – this really is an unmissable chance for BIGGA members to further your personal and professional development.

Many previous attendees have spoken of the trip enhancing their CV and career prospects – and have also met fellow greenkeepers who they are still in touch with years later.

Here’s a selection of the glowing reports we had from some of last year’s delegates:

“I’ve made some very good friends for life, and you’ve made a normal greenkeeper who’s just starting out in the industry very welcome after one of the best weeks of my life.” Tim Johnson, The Wilmslow Golf Club.

“It was fascinating to see how the industry operates over there. The Golf Industry Show was on such a large scale it took me two days to take it all in! The delegation were a really good range of ages, jobs and courses.

“My room mate was Derrick Johnstone from Wentworth and it was a great chance to compare the similarities and differences between his club and mine.” Asa English, Rothley Park Golf Club.

So fill in the form on the front cover of this month’s magazine, return it to BIGGA House and you can be in with a shout of joining this trip of a lifetime. The closing date is 20 September 2013.

Here’s your chance to apply for a spot on the trip of a lifetime to Florida courtesy of BIGGA and Bernhard
Bernhard Trip

The 12th BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhard will be setting their sights on Orlando, Florida – and here’s how you can be on the plane.

February 2014 sees the world renowned Golf Industry Show head for the Orange County Convention Centre which will be showcasing all manner of new products.

The delegates will also have the opportunity to sample the show’s superb educational programme – this really is an unmissable chance for BIGGA members to further your personal and professional development.

Many previous attendees have spoken of the trip enhancing their CV and career prospects – and have also met fellow greenkeepers who they are still in touch with years later.

Here’s a selection of the glowing reports we had from some of last year’s delegates:

“I’ve made some very good friends for life, and you’ve made a normal greenkeeper who’s just starting out in the industry very welcome after one of the best weeks of my life.” Tim Johnson, The Wilmslow Golf Club.

“It was fascinating to see how the industry operates over there. The Golf Industry Show was on such a large scale it took me two days to take it all in! The delegation were a really good range of ages, jobs and courses.

“My room mate was Derrick Johnstone from Wentworth and it was a great chance to compare the similarities and differences between his club and mine.” Asa English, Rothley Park Golf Club.

So fill in the form on the front cover of this month’s magazine, return it to BIGGA House and you can be in with a shout of joining this trip of a lifetime. The closing date is 20 September 2013.

You will then be sent an application form to fill in asking you a series of questions on about yourself, your career ambitions and more.

Visit the sunshine state

Here’s your chance to apply for a spot on the trip of a lifetime to Florida courtesy of BIGGA and Bernhard

The 12th BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhard will be setting their sights on Orlando, Florida – and here’s how you can be on the plane.

February 2014 sees the world renowned Golf Industry Show head for the Orange County Convention Centre which will be showcasing all manner of new products.

The delegates will also have the opportunity to sample the show’s superb educational programme – this really is an unmissable chance for BIGGA members to further your personal and professional development.

Many previous attendees have spoken of the trip enhancing their CV and career prospects – and have also met fellow greenkeepers who they are still in touch with years later.

Here’s a selection of the glowing reports we had from some of last year’s delegates:

“I’ve made some very good friends for life, and you’ve made a normal greenkeeper who’s just starting out in the industry very welcome after one of the best weeks of my life.” Tim Johnson, The Wilmslow Golf Club.

“It was fascinating to see how the industry operates over there. The Golf Industry Show was on such a large scale it took me two days to take it all in! The delegation were a really good range of ages, jobs and courses.

“My room mate was Derrick Johnstone from Wentworth and it was a great chance to compare the similarities and differences between his club and mine.” Asa English, Rothley Park Golf Club.

So fill in the form on the front cover of this month’s magazine, return it to BIGGA House and you can be in with a shout of joining this trip of a lifetime. The closing date is 20 September 2013.

You will then be sent an application form to fill in asking you a series of questions on about yourself, your career ambitions and more.

Visit the sunshine state

Here’s your chance to apply for a spot on the trip of a lifetime to Florida courtesy of BIGGA and Bernhard

The 12th BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhard will be setting their sights on Orlando, Florida – and here’s how you can be on the plane.

February 2014 sees the world renowned Golf Industry Show head for the Orange County Convention Centre which will be showcasing all manner of new products.

The delegates will also have the opportunity to sample the show’s superb educational programme – this really is an unmissable chance for BIGGA members to further your personal and professional development.

Many previous attendees have spoken of the trip enhancing their CV and career prospects – and have also met fellow greenkeepers who they are still in touch with years later.

Here’s a selection of the glowing reports we had from some of last year’s delegates:

“I’ve made some very good friends for life, and you’ve made a normal greenkeeper who’s just starting out in the industry very welcome after one of the best weeks of my life.” Tim Johnson, The Wilmslow Golf Club.

“It was fascinating to see how the industry operates over there. The Golf Industry Show was on such a large scale it took me two days to take it all in! The delegation were a really good range of ages, jobs and courses.

“My room mate was Derrick Johnstone from Wentworth and it was a great chance to compare the similarities and differences between his club and mine.” Asa English, Rothley Park Golf Club.

So fill in the form on the front cover of this month’s magazine, return it to BIGGA House and you can be in with a shout of joining this trip of a lifetime. The closing date is 20 September 2013.

You will then be sent an application form to fill in asking you a series of questions on about yourself, your career ambitions and more.
A double edged sword for soil moisture management

How Duncan Kelso at Kings Hill deals with his course’s unique soil moisture management challenges

The name Qualibra has the mantle of both and the ‘top hat’知道 where to channel the irrigation.

This is supplementary irrigation and extra and on top of ‘base irrigation’ delivered at night via the Toro sprinkler irrigation system. Governing how much is applied is the information sourced from their very own weather station. Key parameters measured, collated and calculated include solar radiation, wind speed, air temperature, soil temperature and natural rainfall.

“We can measure how much is lost during the day and we calculate on putting back about 50 per cent of this in base irrigation at night. If we lose 3.5/day expected during an average summer we will aim to return around 2.0 ml of this in base irrigation,” says Duncan.

Kings Hill clearly requires a reliable source of water for irrigation but unfortunately that cannot always come from the local water course. They have an abstraction licence to take 4 million gallons of water/year from Stanton Brook (a tributary of the River Medway) from October to March. Abstraction is allowed only when pre-set flow conditions of 890 megalitres/day are met. These will typically exist for only for a relatively short period of time. Fortunately, they are sitting pretty thanks to an on-site reservoir built in 1995 with 5 million litres capacity.

Deficit irrigation

Kings Hill clearly runs a policy of ‘Deficit Irrigation’ as asked Duncan why not put back the full amount of water lost during the day. “Firstly we will invariably get some rainfall even during the summer months. We calculate on receiving 30ml/month during each of June, July and August and that goes into the equation.”

The second reason is what can be best described as a ‘horses for courses’ policy to soil moisture movements. By design the award was originally sown and maintained as a fescue/bent mix. As a natural heathland site fescues and bent would have been the predominant wild grasses (Aegrostis spp and Festuca spp), inherently well adapted and suited to prevailing climate and soil conditions. “We
A double edged sword for soil moisture management

How Duncan Kelso at Kings Hill deals with his course’s unique soil moisture management challenges

The name Qualibra has the mantle of both and the ‘top hat and tails’ of soil moisture management in more ways than one.

Greenkeeper International spent a day with Dr Simon Watson of Byn- grith and Duncan Kelso Course Manager at Kings Hill Golf Course at West Malling near Maidstone. Duncan uses Qualibra as part of an integrated soil moisture management programme. “It is satisfying to see Qualibra put to the test and through its paces and to pass with flying colours on this particular golf course.”

**Oasis in dry climate**

Combined climate and topography place Kings Hill in an inherently high evapo-transpiration situation. This is a smart course in looks and the methods used to manage sports turf in clearly less than ideal environmental conditions. Duncan Kelso has been here since the course was constructed in 1995 on the ‘old’ West Malling Airfield, a Second World War Night Fighter Station boasting the legendary Guy Gibson of Dam Busters Fame as a station commander.

Duncan explained how the course was constructed on a lowland heath environment with classic heathland substrate and soil, very rocky but by the same token exceptionally free-draining. At 300 m above sea level it suffers the twin effects of free draining soil and high evapo-transpiration from strong drying winds.

Soil moisture drop from evapo-transpiration can be up to 6.5 ml/day during periods of 30°C ambient temperature. “Only UK coastal locations can compare with that” says Duncan, adding how even on an average temperature day the drop is a hefty 3.0 to 3.5 ml. “During the three critical summer months (June, July and August) we expect to lose 100 ml per month. You can see the effects of evapo-transpiration by four o’clock in the afternoon with footprints staying on the turf and grass plants visibly wilting.”

These greens were constructed according to strict USGA specifications using layers of sand. USGA greens are designed with the maintenance of firmness, smoothness and playability very much in mind but the soil conditions are tough on turf and grass plants visibly wilting.”

Kings Hill clearly requires a reliable source of water for irrigation but unfortunately that cannot always come from the local water course. They have an abstraction licence to take 4 million gallons of water/year from Stanton Brook (a tributary of the River Medway) from October to March. Abstraction is allowed only when pre-set flow conditions of 890 megalitres/day are met. These will typically exist for only for a relatively short period of time. Fortunately, they are sitting pretty thanks to an on-site reservoir built in 1995 with 5 million litres capacity.

**Deficit irrigation**

Kings Hill clearly runs a policy of ‘Deficit Irrigation’ so I asked Duncan why not put back the full amount of water lost during the day. “Firstly we will invariably get some rainfall even during the summer months. We calculate on receiving 30 ml/month during each of June, July and August and that goes into the equation.”

The second reason is what can best be described as a ‘horses for courses’ policy to soil moisture movements. By design the award was originally sown and maintained as a fescue/bent mix. As a natural heathland site fescues and bents would have been the predominant wild grasses (Agrostis spp and Festuca spp), inherently well adapted and suited to prevailing climate and soil conditions. “We know where to channel the irrigation. This is supplementary irrigation and extra and on top of ‘base irrigation’ delivered at night via the Toro sprinkler irrigation system. Governing how much is applied is the information sourced from their own weather station. Key parameters measured, collated and calculated include solar radiation, wind speed, air temperature, soil temperature and natural rainfall.

“We can measure how much is lost during the day and we calculate on putting back about 50 per cent of this in base irrigation at night. If we lose 3.5/day expected during an average summer we will aim to return around 2.0 ml of this in base irrigation,” says Duncan.

Kings Hill clearly requires a reliable source of water for irrigation but unfortunately that cannot always come from the local water course. They have an abstraction licence to take 4 million gallons of water/year from Stanton Brook (a

**Undulating greens at Kings Hill lead to differential drying out with susceptible ‘high spots’**

Duncan explained how the course was constructed on a lowland heath environment with classic heathland substrate and soil, very rocky but by the same token exceptionally free-draining. At 300 m above sea level it suffers the twin effects of free draining soil and high evapo-transpiration from strong drying winds.

Soil moisture drop from evapo-transpiration can be up to 6.5 ml/day during periods of 30°C ambient temperature. “Only UK coastal locations can compare with that” says Duncan, adding how even on an average temperature day the drop is a hefty 3.0 to 3.5 ml. “During the three critical summer months (June, July and August) we expect to lose 100 ml per month. You can see the effects of evapo-transpiration by four o’clock in the afternoon with footprints staying on the turf and grass plants visibly wilting.”

These greens were constructed according to strict USGA specifications using layers of sand. USGA greens are designed with the maintenance of firmness, smoothness and playability very much in mind but the soil conditions are tough on turf and grass plants visibly wilting.”

Kings Hill clearly requires a reliable source of water for irrigation but unfortunately that cannot always come from the local water course. They have an abstraction licence to take 4 million gallons of water/year from Stanton Brook (a tributary of the River Medway) from October to March. Abstraction is allowed only when pre-set flow conditions of 890 megalitres/day are met. These will typically exist for only for a relatively short period of time. Fortunately, they are sitting pretty thanks to an on-site reservoir built in 1995 with 5 million litres capacity.

**Deficit irrigation**

Kings Hill clearly runs a policy of ‘Deficit Irrigation’ so I asked Duncan why not put back the full amount of water lost during the day. “Firstly we will invariably get some rainfall even during the summer months. We calculate on receiving 30 ml/month during each of June, July and August and that goes into the equation.”

The second reason is what can best be described as a ‘horses for courses’ policy to soil moisture movements. By design the award was originally sown and maintained as a fescue/bent mix. As a natural heathland site fescues and bents would have been the predominant wild grasses (Agrostis spp and Festuca spp), inherently well adapted and suited to prevailing climate and soil conditions. “We know where to channel the irrigation. This is supplementary irrigation and extra and on top of ‘base irrigation’ delivered at night via the Toro sprinkler irrigation system. Governing how much is applied is the information sourced from their own weather station. Key parameters measured, collated and calculated include solar radiation, wind speed, air temperature, soil temperature and natural rainfall.

“We can measure how much is lost during the day and we calculate on putting back about 50 per cent of this in base irrigation at night. If we lose 3.5/day expected during an average summer we will aim to return around 2.0 ml of this in base irrigation,” says Duncan.

Kings Hill clearly requires a reliable source of water for irrigation but unfortunately that cannot always come from the local water course. They have an abstraction licence to take 4 million gallons of water/year from Stanton Brook (a
work on the basis of ensuring these turf grasses ‘stay alive’ in summer while letting nature take over and do the rest. The original seed mix was fescue/bent ‘wall to wall’ and a logical choice given the Kentish Ragstone substrate and soil and the accompanying high drying conditions.’

Out on the greens with minimal Poa incursion it was clear to see how the fescue/bent combination was thriving, dominant and clearly at home in this location. As Duncan says, for 17-year-old USGA greens to have less than 5 per cent Poa is virtually unique.

Kings Hill’s turf is challenged by perennial ryegrass which we saw was thriving, dominant and clearly to have less than 5 per cent Poa is virtually unique.

Qualibra – the double edged sword

A reservoir and a sprinkler irrigation system is clearly not the total answer to King’s Hill unique water resource, supply and utilisation situation. Without sustainable soil water management the course would always be in a ‘catch up’ situation with water literally ‘running away’ before its very eyes. Helping the course to hold onto its water is Syngenta’s Qualibra wetting agent used as a key component within an integrated soil moisture management programme.

“The design and development background to Qualibra was quite simply the idea of making much better use of valuable water resources in turf management”, says Dr Simon Watson, Technical Manager at Syngenta. He highlights two basic situations where the services of a wetting agent are traditionally sought after.

First situation is water remaining in the top layer of soil to create a soft layer which the roots are unable to exploit. Soft surfaces are the norm. Footmarks stay and playability is compromised with ball roll speed reduced on characteristically soft slow greens.

“Such situations”, says Simon, “tend to be species related with worst effects on Poa-based and non-USGA greens.” Kings Hill and other comparable courses have overcome such problems by investing in tech-

Qualibra fundamentally bridges an apparent divergence in situation and need by presenting both penetrant and water holding properties. The research and development behind Qualibra is all about more evenly distributing moisture throughout the soil profile, thereby increasing the interfacing area of root surface and soil water containing dissolved nutrients. Qualibra achieves the desired even spread of soil moisture through a unique combination of ‘soil wetting’ components. First is a small-molecule penetrant to move water and achieve the desired spread along the length of root mass, cutting through any hydrophobic zones along the way. Working in tandem with these penetrant properties, is the larger molecule water holding polymer also in Qualibra. This retains moisture right through the root zone, a feat unlikely to be achieved when using a conventional exclusively polymer product.

Soil moisture is now held more effectively at increasing depths in...
work on the basis of ensuring these turf grasses ‘stay alive’ in summer while letting nature take over and do the rest. The original seed mix was fescue/bent ‘wall to wall’ and a logical choice given the Kentish Ragstone substrate and soil and the accompanying high drying conditions. Out on the greens with minimal Poa incursion it was clear to see how the fescue/bent combination was thriving, dominant and clearly at home in this location. As Duncan says, for 17-year-old USGA greens to have less than 5 per cent Poa is virtually unique.

Kings Hill’s turf is challenged by perennial ryegrass which we saw first-hand out on the course. But we also saw how this is taken care of using herbicide in an all Syngenta exercise, applying ‘Rescue’ at 3 l/ha as a foliar spray through exercise, applying ‘Rescue’ at 1 l/ha. Letting nature take over and doing the rest. The original seed mix while letting nature take over and doing the rest. The original seed mix was fescue/bent ‘wall to wall’ and a logical choice given the Kentish Ragstone substrate and soil and the accompanying high drying conditions.

Qualibra – the double edged sword

A reservoir and a sprinkler irrigation system is clearly not the total answer to King’s Hill unique water resource, supply and utilisation situation. Without sustainable soil water management the course would always be in a ‘catch up’ situation with water literally ‘running away’ before its very eyes. Helping the course to hold onto its water is Syngenta’s Qualibra wetting agent used as a key component within an integrated soil moisture management programme.

“The design and development background to Qualibra was quite simply the idea of making much better use of valuable water resources in turf management”, says Dr Simon Watson, Technical Manager at Syngenta. He highlights two basic situations where the services of a wetting agent are traditionally sought after.

First situation is water remaining in the top layer of soil to create a soft layer which the roots are unable to exploit. Soft surfaces are the norm. Footmarks stay and playability is compromised with ball roll speed reduced on characteristically soft slow greens.

“Such situations”, says Simon, “tend to be species related with worst effects on Poa-based and non-USGA greens.” Kings Hill and other comparable courses have overcome such problems by investing in tech-

Experience NEW standards of performance...

“Greens treated with Qualibra were clearly healthier and provided better playing surfaces.”

Ian Coote
Royston Golf Club, Herts

“From what I have seen, using Qualibra would mean I may only need to irrigate once a week – a big saving in time and money.”

Glenn Rayfield
Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club, Suffolk

“Where we had sprayed Qualibra there has been a marked and sustained improvement in sward quality.”

Philip Baldock
Ganton Golf Club, Yorkshire

NEW wetting and water conservation technology that moves water from the surface AND holds it deeper and more evenly in the root zone.

WIN a Pro Go Hero
Visit qualibraextreme.co.uk for more details!

Visit www.greencast.co.uk for more information
the soil profile. Reduced leaching leading to improved nutrient uptake and more efficient fertilizer application, and less environmental impact from nutrient loss into groundwater, are now all on the agenda.

Many might automatically assume that lack of water is the cause of turf yellowing in summer but Simon says it is more likely due to a lack of available nitrogen. Nitrogen in its soluble, plant-available form only exists dissolved in water. In situations where Qualibra makes moisture more accessible, greater availability and higher uptake of soluble nitrogen should automatically follow. Syngenta say Qualibra can delay the onset of summer senescence if used in a programmed approach from spring through to autumn.

Out on the course

‘Proof of the pudding is in the eating’ and a walk around King’s Hill showed clearly the potential soil water management problems faced by Duncan and his team, and also how an integrated soil water management programme, including aeration, is maintaining and retaining grass root structure through the delayed spring and summer of 2013.

Our visit to Kings Hill took place on a bright, sunny and warm June day but with a distinctly drying wind blowing across the course. Soil temperature measured on one of the greens at 4 inches depth was 17.5°C. Duncan said this would be expected to drop some 2-3°C at night. Undulating nature of the greens was clear to see. A soil/root core taken from one of many ‘high spots’ showed how excellent grass root formation, structure and depth was being maintained.

Syngenta recommends foliar applications of Qualibra through a 08 XC nozzle at between 550-800 L/ha. Duncan uses a Gambetti sprayer mounted on a Toro Workman. He tank mixes Qualibra wetting agent with nutrients including sulphate of iron (Ferrous sulphate) to get that little bit more acidity for good grass growth, while keeping the turf hard.

“The course is not normally troubled by turf diseases like Fusarium Patch and anthracnose or surface worm casts”, says Duncan. “Greens were uniformly constructed at 90 per cent sand and 10 per cent peat. We work hard to keep the organic matter fraction down in order to keep the greens firm and the spin-side of this effort is inherently low turf disease and surface worm casting.” The extra acidity from iron sulphate is clearly helping on both counts. Duncan uses Qualibra alongside Primo Maxx growth regulator to obtain the mutually provided benefits of improved rooting, drought tolerance and good grass colour.
the soil profile. Reduced leaching leading to improved nutrient uptake and more efficient fertilizer application, and less environmental impact from nutrient loss into groundwater, are now all on the agenda.

Many might automatically assume that lack of water is the cause of turf yellowing in summer but Simon says it is more likely due to a lack of available nitrogen. Nitrogen in its soluble, plant-available form only exists dissolved in water. In situations where Qualibra makes moisture more accessible, greater availability and higher uptake of soluble nitrogen should automatically follow. Syngenta say Qualibra can delay the onset of summer senescence if used in a programmed approach from spring through to autumn.

Out on the course

‘Proof of the pudding is in the eating’ and a walk around King’s Hill showed clearly the potential soil water management problems faced by Duncan and his team, and also how an integrated soil water management programme, including aeration, is maintaining and retaining grass root structure through the delayed spring and summer of 2013.

Our visit to Kings Hill took place on a bright, sunny and warm June day but with a distinctly drying wind blowing across the course. Soil temperature measured on one of the greens at 4 inches depth was 17.5°C. Duncan said this would be expected to drop some 2-3°C at night. Undulating nature of the greens was clear to see. A soil/root core taken from one of many ‘high spots’ showed how excellent grass root formation, structure and depth was being maintained.

Syngenta recommends foliar applications of Qualibra through a 08 XC nozzle at between 550-800 L/ha. Duncan uses a Gambetti sprayer mounted on a Toro Workman. He tank mixes Qualibra wetting agent with nutrients including sulphate of iron (Ferrous sulphate) to get that little bit more acidity for good grass growth, while keeping the turf hard.

“The course is not normally troubled by turf diseases like Fusarium Patch and anthracnose or surface worm casts”, says Duncan. “Greens were uniformly constructed at 90 per cent sand and 10 per cent peat. We work hard to keep the organic matter fraction down in order to keep the greens firm and the spin-side of this effort is inherently low turf disease and surface worm casting.” The extra acidity from iron sulphate is clearly helping on both counts. Duncan uses Qualibra alongside Primo Maxx growth regulator to obtain the mutually provided benefits of improved rooting, drought tolerance and good grass colour.

Almost 60 years ago, Robert A. Moore pondered a puddle in a friend’s back yard – an act that would ultimately change water management practices of green industry professionals worldwide.

Since Aquatrols introduced the industry’s first surfactant in 1954, we’ve remained the leader in the industry. Today Aquatrols is proud to offer a full line of technologically superior surfactants and other specialty products that address a wide variety of greenkeeper needs.

With our own fully-staffed research and development department, a technically knowledgeable sales force, and a long history serving turf professionals, we’re confident that Aquatrols is the last name you’ll need to know.
The Richmond Golf Club are celebrating after winning an international award after renovating 56 bunkers. Course Manager and part-time bouncer Les Howkins explained how they defeated American clubs with multi-million pound budgets with their £125k project.

Les Howkins admitted he was “shattered” as we chatted in his office at The Richmond Golf Club. Just 12 hours earlier, he had spent an eventful evening separating warring teenagers at a sixth form leaving bash held deep in the 105-acre grounds of the club – which is owned by The Crown.

“I was asked to do security and at one point these two girls were really going at each other,” he recalled, “so I just picked one of them up, carried her away and plonked her outside to calm her down. Later one of her friends came up to me and said it was the funniest thing she’d seen all year.”

It’s no exaggeration to say Les lives and breathes this club – he lives on site - and this explains his sheer pride in their amazing recent achievement. They fought off worldwide competition from the likes of Oklahoma Golf & Country Club and Denver Golf Club to win the title of ‘Renovation of the Year’ from Golf Inc – a well-respected industry magazine based in California. A panel of judges hailed the work Les and his team completed in-house to overhaul the club’s bunkers which had previously suffered from flooding and wash down issues. In fact they described it as “an extremely elegant solution to transform a course, showing in dramatic fashion how bunkering defines a course. For a club wanting to make a statement, but faced with limited funds, this is a great example to follow”.

After considering proposals from several architects the club picked Thompson, Perrett & Lobb (TPL) to plan the work in 2009 – and it was TPL who suggested entering the competition. Les thought Richmond stood no chance as they were competing against huge clubs worldwide – some with budgets of well over £10million (Richmond had £125k) and five times the number of staff.

He said: “We had nothing to lose – it was free to enter - so we put a portfolio together with before and after shots, explained the process and the rest is history. I think the fact we’d done it all ourselves maybe gave us an edge, but I was gobsmacked when I was told we’d won. The work was worth it anyway, but to be given an award by industry leaders is the icing on the cake and made all the blood, sweat and tears worth it. Hopefully we’ll get a certificate soon to hang in my office!”

A Rich reward
A Rich reward

Les Howkins admitted he was “shattered” as we chatted in his office at The Richmond Golf Club. Just 12 hours earlier, he had spent an eventful evening separating warring teenagers at a sixth form leaving bash held deep in the 105-acre grounds of the club – which is owned by The Crown.

“I was asked to do security and at one point these two girls were really going at each other,” he recalled, “so I just picked one of them up, carried her away and plonked her outside to calm her down. Later one of her friends came up to me and said it was the funniest thing she’d seen all year.”

It’s no exaggeration to say Les lives and breathes this club – he lives on site – and this explains his sheer pride in their amazing recent achievement. They fought off worldwide competition from the likes of Oklahoma Golf & Country Club and Denver Golf Club to win the title of ‘Renovation of the Year’ from Golf Inc – a well-respected industry magazine based in California. A panel of judges hailed the work Les and his team completed in-house to overhaul the club’s bunkers which had previously suffered from flooding and wash down issues. In fact they described it as an “extremely elegant solution to transform a course, showing in dramatic fashion how bunkering defines a course. For a club wanting to make a statement, but faced with limited funds, this is a great example to follow.”

After considering proposals from several architects the club picked Thompson, Perrett & Lebi (TPL) to plan the work in 2009 – and it was TPL who suggested entering the competition. Les thought Richmond stood no chance as they were competing against huge clubs worldwide – some with budgets of well over £10 million (Richmond had £125k) and five times the number of staff.

He said: “We had nothing to lose – it was free to enter – so we put a portfolio together with before and after shots, explained the process and the rest is history. I think the fact we’d done it all ourselves maybe gave us an edge, but I was gobsmacked when I was told we’d won. The work was worth it anyway, but to be given an award by industry leaders is the icing on the cake and made all the blood, sweat and tears worth it. Hopefully we’ll get a certificate soon to hang in my office!”

The Richmond Golf Club are celebrating after winning an international award after renovating 56 bunkers. Course Manager and part-time bouncer Les Howkins explained how they defeated American clubs with multi-million pound budgets with their £125k project.
So how did they do it?

Les arrived at the club in April 2008 with an extensive woodland management project already underway – but his focus quickly turned to the problematic bunkers. His team had a novel way of highlighting the issues.

"On my first day there was one particular bunker which was full of water and we pumped it out. The following day it was full of water again so we pumped it out again. The third day it was full again.

"Of course, the other lads knew the water table was so high it would just fill up overnight, they just thought it would be funny to watch me flounder each morning. They made sure I realised the scale of the task.

"The wash down was particularly bad, which contaminated the sand, which in turn created muddy sand which just did not drain.

"We've got a team of ten here including one full-time mechanic, and were spending so much time on the bunkers, especially after wet weather, we had little time for anything else, although the rest of the course does drain very well as it's on a sand and gravel base."

Les spoke to several architects and met four on the course, and TPL stood out due to the depth of their research and general work ethos. They looked through the club’s archives to get a flavour of the course’s history, watched members play to gauge the standard of golf and produced an outstanding plan with their design ideas – some of which were radical.

"I took their plans to the committee and there was uproar immediately over plans to get rid of a bunker on the third fairway.

"It was a good shot for bad golfers so it was punishing the wrong standard of golfer but they replied 'that's part of the challenge' and they didn't want that challenge removing.

"I had to be fairly forceful and tell them this work was absolutely necessary, and promise results.

"Our aim was to place the bunkers strategically, giving the longer hitters a tougher challenge while giving the higher handicappers an easier route to the greens.

"To an extent I hung my career on this project succeeding because I'd only been here a year when we started the pilot."

"The company we used for the original bunker liners went under, so we then approached Blinder Bunker who I was hugely impressed with. We also used Steelwrist who manufacture tilt rotating buckets on diggers.

"We bought our own digger and a Steelwrist bucket, it's phenomenal and pretty unique.

"It ended up being an absolutely essential piece of kit for the work we needed to do, enabling you to do the work much more quickly and efficiently."

"Our aim was to place the bunkers strategically, giving the longer hitters a tougher challenge while giving the higher handicappers an easier route to the greens."

PROFILE
Name: Les Howkins MGI
Position: Course Manager
Born: Leicester, 18 May 1973
Handicap: 6
Hobbies: Golf, spending time with wife and two young daughters
Favourite Sports Team: Leicester Tigers

TPL PLAN: KEY FINDINGS
- Many of the fairway bunkers were out of position punishing the average golfer and most of the greenside bunkers were too far from the green to pose a serious threat to the better golfer.
- Many of the bunkers left the golfer with downhill lies resulting in thin or ribbed shots.
- Many of the bunkers were at the bottom of hollows and only just above the water table, causing them to gather large amounts of water and drain very slowly.
- Most of the bunkers were barely visible to the golfer, and those that were visible were not very visually appealing.
Les arrived at the club in April 2008 with an extensive woodland management project already underway – but his focus quickly turned to the problematic bunkers. His team had a novel way of highlighting the issues.

“On my first day there was one particular bunker which was full of water and we pumped it out. The following day it was full of water again so we pumped it out again. The third day it was full again.

“Of course, the other lads knew the water table was so high it would just fill up overnight, they just thought it would be funny to watch me flounder each morning. They made sure I realised the scale of the task.

“The wash down was particularly bad, which contaminated the sand, which in turn created muddy sand which just did not drain.

“We’ve got a team of ten here including one full-time mechanic, and were spending so much time on the bunkers, especially after wet weather, we had little time for anything else, although the rest of the course does drain very well as it’s on a sand and gravel base."

Les spoke to several architects and met four on the course, and TPL stood out due to the depth of their research and general work ethos. They looked through the club’s archives to get a flavour of the course’s history, watched members play to gauge the standard of golf and produced an outstanding plan with their design ideas – some of which were radical.

“I took their plans to the committee and there was uproar immediately over plans to get rid of a bunker on the third fairway.

“It was a good shot for bad golfers so it was punishing the wrong standard of golfer but they replied ‘that’s part of the challenge’ and they didn’t want that challenge removing.

“I had to be fairly forceful and tell them this work was absolutely necessary, and promise results.

“Our aim was to place the bunkers strategically, giving the longer hitters a tougher challenge while giving the higher handicappers an easier route to the greens.

“To an extent I hung my career on this project succeeding because I’d only been here a year when we started the pilot.”

The team used the 11th hole as the pilot in 2009, putting drainage in, experimenting with different liners and different types of sand. They chose buckbricks sand as it compacts down well, so provides a firm footing and is also free draining.

“The pilot was a success so we were all set. I had a fair bit of drainage and digging experience and the now Deputy Course Manager Dan Norsworthy is a fully qualified digger driver, so we knew we had a great team to do it."

“When we started the work Jaye Goodchild was the Deputy and he was hugely involved in it too – it was a tremendous team effort. Of course, there was an element of learning for us all along the way and TPL supported us with the final grading and shaping of the bunkers.

“The company we used for the original bunker liners went under, so we then approached Blinder Bunker who I was hugely impressed with. We also used Steelwrist who manufacture tilt rotating buckets on diggers.

“We bought our own digger and a Steelwrist bucket, it’s phenomenal and pretty unique. It ended up being an absolutely essential piece of kit for the work we needed to do, enabling you to do the work much more quickly and efficiently.”

So how did they do it?

Les arrived at the club in April 2008 with an extensive woodland management project already underway – but his focus quickly turned to the problematic bunkers. His team had a novel way of highlighting the issues.

“On my first day there was one particular bunker which was full of water and we pumped it out. The following day it was full of water again so we pumped it out again. The third day it was full again.

“Of course, the other lads knew the water table was so high it would just fill up overnight, they just thought it would be funny to watch me flounder each morning. They made sure I realised the scale of the task.

“The wash down was particularly bad, which contaminated the sand, which in turn created muddy sand which just did not drain.

“We’ve got a team of ten here including one full-time mechanic, and were spending so much time on the bunkers, especially after wet weather, we had little time for anything else, although the rest of the course does drain very well as it’s on a sand and gravel base."

Les spoke to several architects and met four on the course, and TPL stood out due to the depth of their research and general work ethos. They looked through the club’s archives to get a flavour of the course’s history, watched members play to gauge the standard of golf and produced an outstanding plan with their design ideas – some of which were radical.

“I took their plans to the committee and there was uproar immediately over plans to get rid of a bunker on the third fairway.

“It was a good shot for bad golfers so it was punishing the wrong standard of golfer but they replied ‘that’s part of the challenge’ and they didn’t want that challenge removing.

“I had to be fairly forceful and tell them this work was absolutely necessary, and promise results.

“Our aim was to place the bunkers strategically, giving the longer hitters a tougher challenge while giving the higher handicappers an easier route to the greens.

“To an extent I hung my career on this project succeeding because I’d only been here a year when we started the pilot.”

The team used the 11th hole as the pilot in 2009, putting drainage in, experimenting with different liners and different types of sand. They chose buckbricks sand as it compacts down well, so provides a firm footing and is also free draining.

“The pilot was a success so we were all set. I had a fair bit of drain-
efficiently. We also used Speedcut who installed around 4,000 linear metres of drainage across the course that we could then tap into for the bunkers. We assured the turf from Inturf, which was flawless.”

Phase one of the work began in October 2010 and was completed in January 2011, with a similar timescale for phase two a year later. Except for occasional closures on the par threes as the team worked near the aprons, disruption to play was minimal. With each phase they allowed three months for the bunkers to grow in before opening them.

Some holes were radically changed with bunkers moved or removed, greens widened or shortened and mounds introduced to add to the playability factor. Others were tweaked more aesthetically with hollows strengthened and tees relocated slightly.

Les, who began his career at 15 with a work experience stint at Kibworth Golf Club and worked at Cleethorpes Golf Club prior to his move south, said: “I did have to give some of the older members bunker lessons because they couldn’t get out of them at the start.

“They just needed to hit the ball a bit harder, and once they got used to them they loved them.” I’m really proud of what we’ve achieved here. All the team are happy with the results, and the committee, members and visitors have been 99% positive too.

Golf should be a game where the player has to think before every shot and that’s what I believe we’ve reinforced with these changes.”

Congratulations to all the team at Richmond – the final word goes to architect Tim Lobb.

He said: “I’ve been in the business for close to 20 years and this is the best in-house result I’ve ever seen, it’s stunning.”

---

We increase excavator efficiency!

If you want to be:
- more efficient
- recognized for delivering a proper job
- safe at your work site
- more environmentally friendly
or simply want to increase your profitability,
then a Steelwrist is the product for you!

The coated shredded rubber comes in a variety of colours that can be used alone or in a blend. The rubber is mixed with a binding agent and forms a hard wearing, free draining, wash free path resembling wood mulch, but without the negative effects.

Golfers enjoy the experience of walking on the Anti fatigue surface which is aesthetically pleasing and eco friendly.

The contamination of the sand is not only aesthetically displeasing, it effects the playing qualities of the sand by creating a compacting, muddied sand that does not drain. The new bunkers without the wash down have no such problems and the bunker liner creates a permanent barrier between soil and sand.

The solutions to your bunkers and pathways
www.blinder.com +44 (0) 1344 624654

The team from left: Sam Bethell, Paul Carella, Les Howkins, Tony Bartram, Pat Kidd, Dan Norsworthy, Joshua Thorley

Missing are: Adam Wise and John McPherson
efficiently. We also used Speedcut who installed around 4,000 lineal metres of drainage across the course that we could then tap into for the bunkers. We assured the turf from Inturf, which was flawless.”

Phase one of the work began in October 2010 and was completed in January 2011, with a similar timescale for phase two a year later. Except for occasional closures on the par threes as the team worked near the aprons, disruption to play was minimal.

With each phase they allowed three months for the bunkers to grow in before opening them. Some holes were radically changed with bunkers moved or removed, greens widened or short-ened and mounds introduced to add to the playability factor. Others were tweaked more aesthetically with hollows strengthened and tees relocated slightly.

Les, who began his career at 15 with a work experience stint at Kibworth Golf Club and worked at Cleethorpes Golf Club prior to his move south, said: “I did have to give some of the older members bunker lessons because they couldn’t get out of them at the start.”

“They just needed to hit the ball a bit harder, and once they got used to them they loved them.”

“I’m really proud of what we’ve achieved here. All the team are happy with the results, and the committee, members and visitors have been 99% positive too.”

Golf should be a game where the player has to think before every shot and that’s what I believe we’ve reinforced with these changes.”

Congratulations to all the team at Richmond – the final word goes to architect Tim Lobb.

He said: “I’ve been in the busi-
ness for close to 20 years and this is the best in-house result I’ve ever seen, it’s stunning.”

Before the renovation

After heavy rain almost all of the bunkers on the course had severe wash down on the faces. So all the bunkers were edged, banks flymoed and all the sand pushed back up the face and the bunkers given a full rake.

The contamination of the sand is not only aesthetically displeasing, it effects the playing qualities of the sand by creating a compacting, muddy sand that does not drain. The new bunkers without the wash down have no such problems and the bunker liner creates a permanent barrier between soil and sand.

We increase excavator efficiency!

If You want to be:
• more efficient
• recognized for delivering a proper job
• safe at your work site
• more environmentally friendly

then a Steelwrist is the product for you!

The coated shredded rubber comes in a variety of colours that can be used alone or in a blend. The rubber is mixed with a binding agent and forms a hard wearing, free draining, wash free path resem-bling wood mulch, but without the negative effects.

Golfers enjoy the experience of walking on the Anti fatigue surface which is aesthetically pleasing and Eco friendly.

The solutions to your bunkers and pathways

www.blinder.com +44 (0) 1344 624654
How did that happen? A quick chat with the chairman of green, and you've somehow ended up offering to do a presentation to the membership. It can be the stuff of nightmares - standing up in front of a room full of people.

Where do you start? This article aims to take some of the fear (and pain) out of presenting your chosen subject matter to your designated audience. It will also introduce the most effective use of PowerPoint as a presentation and visual aid.

So, why should you use PowerPoint?

PowerPoint should help you bring together all the elements of your presentation, enabling you to get your point across in a visually stimulating and memorable way. The use of a slideshow will enhance your presentation and add an extra dimension to your message.

Where do you start?

Significance

It might sound obvious that you should start by deciding on the message behind your presentation. Make sure that you are clear as to why you are presenting in the first place. If you can't make your subject matter meaningful, you shouldn't be presenting.

It needs to be significant - why? Because significance creates passion, and passion leads to action. There is nothing better than a passionate speaker - if you are passionate (or at least interested) in your subject matter, then you will present a confident and clear speech.

Structure

The structure of your presentation is your next consideration. What structure should you use? It doesn't matter, as long as there is a structure. The three main things you need for your structure are:

- Credible - Ensure it's believable and convincing. You may choose to have an introduction, a middle and a summary. Or maybe problem, pathway, solution. Choice of structure doesn't matter, as long as one exists.
- Memorable - Keep to 3 or 4 reasons to each point (or argument) - your audience won't remember any more than this. If you need more than 4 reasons, develop a new point.
- Scalable - whatever you can say in 30 minutes should be scalable to 45 minutes, an hour, 5 minutes. An example of a good, or widely used structure would be:
  - Memorable opening
  - Point 1 (3 reasons)
  - Point 2 (3 reasons)
  - Point 3 (3 reasons)
  - Memorable closing/ Summary

Simplicity

Albert Einstein once said "If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself" and this is completely true of PowerPoint presentations. If you can't explain something so that any audience member will understand, then you don't understand it yourself. This also brings us to the point that you should know your audience. Are you addressing a room full of six year olds, or a room full of agronomists? This simplicity (or lack of) is one of the main reasons for the failure of PowerPoint presentations. We don't seem to be able to keep things simple. We end up cluttering slides with complicated diagrams, loads of text, or complicated graphics.

Powerpoint is designed to visualise ideas, create key points and impress the audience. I would also argue that it is there to help take the focus away from the speaker, but that's not a popular argument. Unfortunately, PowerPoint tends to actually be used as a prompt, in place of handouts, or as a data dump.

If you put too much text on a slide, the audience will read faster than you can speak which makes you useless!

Break it down into an extra slide - it costs nothing. Keep to one main point per slide and remove everything else. Forget the PowerPoint rules - some expert came up with the 2 rules that you shouldn't have more than 7 words per line, or 7 lines per slide. Forget that one - just make sure it can be read, clearly. "When it comes to design, stick to the following rules" [sorry].

- One point per slide
- Few, matching colours - use one of the built-in themes or designs to keep it looking consistent.
- Keep the fonts to a minimum - again, using the themes and designs will help with this.
- Use photos NOT clipart. Some larger organisations have banned the use of Clipart in company presentations, and not before time!

If you need to send or print the slides, put it into a document, or create a second set.

Rehearsal

The final (and probably most important thing) when it comes to presenting is rehearsal. Practice, practice, practice. It will never work first time, trust me. Try to get some feedback; your most difficult audience in people you know, so practice, practice, practice. Always double check the room and your equipment - don't arrive with 10 minutes to spare expecting everything to be set up for you!

Presentation Checklist:

With this simple checklist, you can effectively use PowerPoint as a powerful visual aid to your presentations.

- Significance
  - Why does it matter?
  - How do I grab their attention?
  - What do I want them to do?
- Structure
  - Credible
  - Memorable
  - Scalable
- Simplicity
  - 1 Point per slide
  - Pictures, not clipart
  - Consistent design
- Rehearsal
  - Practice aloud
  - Gain feedback
  - Check room and equipment
You’ve got the power!

Jacky Lowe shows you how to present effectively using PowerPoint

How did that happen? A quick chat with the chairman of green, and you’ve somehow ended up offering to do a presentation to the membership. It can be the stuff of nightmares - standing up in front of a room full of people.

Where do you start? This article aims to take some of the fear (and pain) out of presenting your chosen subject matter to your designated audience. It will also introduce the most effective use of PowerPoint as a presentation and visual aid.

So, why should you use PowerPoint?

PowerPoint should help you bring together all the elements of your presentation, enabling you to get your point across in a visually stimulating and memorable way. The use of a slideshow will enhance your presentation and add an extra dimension to your message.

Where do you start?

Significance

It might sound obvious that you should start by deciding on the message behind your presentation. Make sure that you are clear as to why you are presenting in the first place. If you can’t make your subject matter meaningful, you shouldn’t be presenting.

It needs to be significant – why?

Albert Einstein once said “If you can’t explain it to a six year old, you don’t understand it yourself” and this is completely true of PowerPoint presentations. If you can’t explain something so that any audience member will understand, then you don’t understand it yourself. This also brings us to the point that you should know your audience. Are you addressing a room full of six year olds, or a room full ofargonists? This simplicity (or lack of) is one of the main reasons for the failure of PowerPoint presentations. We don’t seem to be able to keep things simple. We end up cluttering slides with complicated diagrams, loads of text, or complicated graphics. PowerPoint is designed to visualise ideas, create key points and impress the audience. I would also argue that it is there to help take the focus away from the speaker, but that’s not a popular argument. Unfortunately, PowerPoint tends to actually be used as a prompt, in place of handouts, or as a data dump.

If you put too much text on a slide, the audience will read faster than you can speak which makes you useless!

Break it down into an extra slide – it costs nothing. Keep to one main point per slide and remove everything else. Forget the PowerPoint ‘rules’ – some expert came up with the 2 rules that you shouldn’t have more than 7 words per line or 7 lines per slide. Forget that one – just make sure it can be read, clearly. ‘When it comes to design, stick to the following rules’ (sorry).

• One point per slide.
• Few, matching colours – use one of the built-in themes or designs to keep it looking consistent.
• Keep the fonts to a minimum – whatever you can say in 2 minutes should be scalable to 45 minutes, an hour, 5 minutes.

An example of a good, or widely used structure would be:

- Memorable opening
- Point 1 [3 reasons]
- Point 2 [2 reasons]
- Point 3 [3 reasons]
- Memorable closing/Summary

Structure

The structure of your presentation is your next consideration. What structure should you use? It doesn’t matter, as long as there is a structure. The three main things you need for your structure are:

- Credible – Ensure it’s believable and convincing. You may choose to have an introduction, a middle and a summary. Or maybe problem, pathway, solution. Choice of structure doesn’t matter, as long as one exists.
- Memorable – keep to 3 or 4 reasons to each point (or argument) – your audience won’t remember any more than this. If you need more than 4 reasons, develop a new point.
- Scalable – whatever you can say in 20 minutes should be scalable to 45 minutes, an hour, 5 minutes.

Presentation Checklist:

- Consistent design
- Credible
- Memorable
- Scalable

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?

Structure

- What do I want them to do?
- How do I grab their attention?
- Why does it matter?

Significance

- Why does it matter?
- How do I grab their attention?
- What do I want them to do?
Brushing-in top dressing - the options

The Early Days
The spreading of a sand based top dressing onto putting surfaces for improving playability has been in use for around 150 years. It was certainly an essential part of Old Tom Morris’s program of work, first on Prestwick and then latterly at St Andrews during the middle part of the 19th century.

What isn’t clear however, is how this was ‘worked-in’ to the surface in these bygone days; possibly via the back of a rake or perhaps using a broom or yard brush. There are no records of the amounts or frequencies used but it is likely that this would be relatively small and used more for turf repairs and brushing out ruts, hollows and animal scrapes.

Rolling was the other mainstay of early greenkeeping. Ironically this is back in vogue after an absence of nearly 100 years when it was found that after prolonged use of heavy iron rollers, greens were becoming ‘hide-bound’ or compacted.

More Modern Times
Although Sisis had developed various pedestrian driven aerify- ing units soon after William Paul’s three prong coring fork invention circa 1920, it wasn’t until the 1950s that a powered coring aerifier was introduced by the American, Thomas Mascaro. He would later produce a vertical cutting machine for thatch removal.

The use of powered aerifying and vertical cutting machines became ever more popular as the demand for improved putting greens became greater. This also meant that larger amounts of top dressing were required to follow up these cultural practices and so began the next phase in how to move this material into and core holes, as well as vertical grooves. Chain link drag mats were introduced which could be pulled by hand or towed by machine, thus allowing material to be dragged into the surface once dry.

Prior to 1980, top dressing in the UK was still largely confined to spring and autumn following pre and post season renovation work to coincide with the golfing calendar; a topical issue at many clubs some 30 years later! Course Managers introduced or developed various techniques to spread top dressing, some of which are shown in the accompanying photographs. Lines of greenkeepers brushing greens with besom brushes was not uncommon, particularly on the more traditional golf courses. Even the use of hover mowers to blow the sand into the turf canopy has been used in recent times.

A Remaining Challenge
The introduction of ‘spinner’ type top dressers presented Course Managers with the opportunity of applying top dressing little and often, very quickly and ahead of play. A few passes with a drag brush or similar implement soon made the material disappear and following a dry cut, the golfers were largely unaware that this work had been carried out. This is a popular practice throughout the turfing world, whereby the amount of organic matter build up is balanced and diluted by the application of top dressing every 7 to 14 days.

However, one aspect of renova- tion work that has been a challenge for many years is the filling of core holes with sand top dressing. A common issue is that core holes are not being filled leading to uneven and bumpy turf surfaces.

Not filling the core holes is also a lost opportunity for dealing with thatch accumulation, since the holes quickly close up again. It often appears that the holes are filled but when profile samples are taken, it indicates merely a ‘bridged’ cover- ing whereby the wet sand lies above the hole with the void remaining. This is especially the case when this work is carried out before and after the main playing season when sur- faces are damp and temperatures cooler.

Options Available
Brushing very light applications or ‘dustings’ of sand dressing into the turf canopy can easily be achieved using a variety of methods that are quick and effective. Since only very small quantities of mater- rial are involved, this is a straight- forward exercise, although it could be argued that some of the dressing is removed during the first cut or two.

Following hollow coring however, this is a different challenge. A typical 50x50mm (2 inch) tine pattern using 13mm (half inch) wide coring tines to a depth of 100mm (4 inches) requires around 3 tons of material per average sized green to completely fill the holes.

In warmer and drier climates this is perhaps less of an issue but in our cool temperate climate, this is harder to achieve, especially if the sand is wet or even just damp. Purchasing the more expensive kiln dried sand still requires a dry surface; by no means a guarantee.

With ever more emphasis on greens performance and the need for regular top dressing, Laurence Pithie examines the methods used past and present for working top dressing into the turf surface.

ABOVE: Brushing in top dressing using Greenstar Multi-brush (Cotgrave Place)
BELOW: Sweep n Fill brushing sand dressing into core holes (West Hill)
With ever more emphasis on greens performance and the need for regular top dressing, Laurence Pithie examines the methods used past and present for working top dressing into the turf surface.

Brushing-in top dressing - the options

The Early Days

The spreading of a sand based top dressing onto putting surfaces for improving playability has been in use for around 150 years. It was certainly an essential part of Old Tom Morris’s program of work, first on Prestwick and then latterly at St Andrews during the middle part of the 19th century.

What isn’t clear however, is how this was ‘worked-in’ to the surface in these bygone days; possibly via the back of a rake or perhaps using a broom or yard brush. There are no records of the amounts or frequencies used but it is likely that this would be relatively small and used more for turf repairs and leveling out ruts, hollows and animal scrapes.

Rolling was the other mainstay of ‘early’ greenkeeping. Ironically this is back in vogue after an absence of nearly 100 years when it was found that after prolonged use of heavy iron rollers, greens were becoming ‘hide-bound’ or compacted.

More Modern Times

Although Sisis had developed various pedestrian driven aerifying units soon after William Paul’s three prong coring fork invention circa 1920, it wasn’t until the 1950s that a powered coring aerifier was introduced by the American, Thomas Mascaro. He would later produce a vertical cutting machine for thatch removal.

The use of powered aerifying and vertical cutting machines became ever more popular as the demand for improved putting greens became greater. This also meant that larger amounts of top dressing were required to follow up these cultural practices and so began the next phase in how to move this material into tine and core holes, as well as vertical grooves. Chain link drag mats were introduced which could be pulled by hand or towed by machine, thus allowing material to be dragged into the surface once dry.

Prior to 1980, top dressing in the UK was still largely confined to spring and autumn following pre and post season renovation work to coincide with the golfing calendar, a topical issue at many clubs some 30 years later! Course Managers introduced or developed various techniques to spread top dressing, some of which are shown in the accompanying photographs.

Lines of greenkeepers brushing dressing with besom brushes was not uncommon, particularly on the more traditional golf courses. Even the use of hover mowers to blow the sand into the turf canopy has been used in recent times.

A Remaining Challenge

The introduction of ‘spinner’ type top dressers presented Course Managers with the opportunity of applying top dressing little and often, very quickly and ahead of play. A few passes with a drag brush or similar implement soon made the material disappear and following a dry cut, the golfers were largely unaware that this work had been carried out. This is a popular practice throughout the turfing world, whereby the amount of organic matter build-up is balanced and diluted by the application of top dressing every 7 to 14 days.

However, one aspect of renovation work that has been a challenge for many years is the filling of core holes with sand top dressing. A common issue is that core holes are not being filled leading to uneven and bumpy turf surfaces.

Options Available

Brushing very light applications or ‘dustings’ of sand dressing into the turf canopy can easily be achieved using a variety of methods that are quick and effective. Since only very small quantities of material are involved, this is a straightforward exercise, although it could be argued that some of the dressing is removed during the first two cuts. Following hollow coring however, this is a different challenge. A typical 50x50mm (2 inch) tine pattern using 13mm (half inch) wide coring tines to a depth of 100mm (4 inches) requires around 3 tons of material per average sized green to completely fill the holes.

In warmer and drier climates this is perhaps less of an issue but in our cool temperate climate, this is harder to achieve, especially if the sand is wet or even just damp. Purchasing the more expensive kiln dried sand still requires a dry surface; by no means a guarantee.

Not filling the core holes is also a lost opportunity for dealing with thatch accumulation, since the holes quickly close up again. It often appears that the holes are filled but when profile samples are taken, it indicates merely a ‘bridged’ covering whereby the wet sand lies above the hole with the void remaining.

In the accompanying photographs, the use of hover mowers to blow the sand into the turf canopy has been in recent times.

Managers introduced or developed various techniques to spread top dressing, some of which are shown in the accompanying photographs.

Options Available

Brushing very light applications or ‘dustings’ of sand dressing into the turf canopy can easily be achieved using a variety of methods that are quick and effective. Since only very small quantities of material are involved, this is a straightforward exercise, although it could be argued that some of the dressing is removed during the first two cuts. Following hollow coring however, this is a different challenge. A typical 50x50mm (2 inch) tine pattern using 13mm (half inch) wide coring tines to a depth of 100mm (4 inches) requires around 3 tons of material per average sized green to completely fill the holes.

In warmer and drier climates this is perhaps less of an issue but in our cool temperate climate, this is harder to achieve, especially if the sand is wet or even just damp. Purchasing the more expensive kiln dried sand still requires a dry surface; by no means a guarantee.
in the UK, particularly in western regions. Therefore what are the options available to course managers?

**Drag Matting**

This is a quick and low cost method whereby the drag mat can be towed behind an assortment of vehicles from a bunker rake to a golf cart. It is not suitable for working in larger quantities of material but ideal for light dustings and has been a common practice for decades.

**Drag Brushing**

A towed drag brush achieves similar results to the drag mat but has the same limitations. A brush mounted on the three point tractor linkage inserts more pressure but still has some limitations in what is achieved. However it is a useful play for producing more upright growth prior to being mown.

There are all sorts of mounted brushes available ranging from a Siais ‘Zip-Zag’ brush to the Green-tek ‘Multi Brush’ which can be raised to give a ‘triple’ action spread for top dressing. The two rotating brushes have the ability to move larger volumes of sand into core holes in a few passes, even when the sand is damp.

Both types can be towed behind a basic vehicle. For the first time it is possible to completely fill all core holes under reasonable conditions quickly and efficiently without requiring large numbers of staff.

These brushes are also useful for grooming greens surfaces and helping to increase green speed. It also gives Course Managers the option of using slightly smaller and less disruptive coring tines while still able to fill the holes.

**Contra-Rotating Brushes**

These are more commonly referred to as ‘Sweep and Fill’ brushes, with two variations available: the original Sweep n’ Fill brush from DSM or the TB220 from R&K Kensett Ltd.

The two rotating brushes have the ability to move larger volumes of sand into core holes in a few passes, even when the sand is damp. Both types can be towed behind transport wheels which are raised when brushing and can be towed behind a basic vehicle.

For the first time it is possible to completely fill all core holes under reasonable conditions quickly and efficiently without requiring large numbers of staff. These brushes are also useful for grooming greens surfaces and helping to increase green speed. It also gives Course Managers the option of using slightly smaller and less disruptive coring tines while still able to fill the holes.

**Blowers**

These are less common in the UK but the objective is to direct high volumes of air to blow the dressing into the core holes and turf canopy as opposed to dragging or brushing which can be abrasive to the turf.

The Buffalo Turbine Sand Devil blower is an American unit for this purpose with other models suitable for blowing cores to the sides of greens, tees or fairways for collection.

**In-house variations**

The use of an old upturned range mat which is towed behind any small vehicle gives a very satisfactory performance for working in small amounts of dressing for next to no cash outlay.

When these mats become worn and unsuitable for use on the range or winter tees, they can still prove useful for this purpose.

Another variation is to use a metal frame and pallet and then cover this with astroturf or similar to form a small robust unit with additional weight.

**SUMMARY**

Course Managers are always looking at ways to improve efficiency and the quality of putting surfaces. There are brushes, mats and blowers available to meet these objectives and to suit all course budgets, some more capable than others.

For completely filling core holes, the most effective method to date is the use of one of the contra rotating brushes which overcome an age-old problem.

For courses that have little or no need for coring, then any of the other alternative methods will serve the purpose at a relatively modest cost. Much depends on what you intend to achieve and also the timing, since working top dressing into the putting surface is better achieved when playing surfaces are dry and the grass is actively growing during warmer temperatures.

**Laurence Pithie MG**

Laurence Pithie MG runs his own training and consultancy company, Turf and Greenkeepers International. He spent 17 years managing multi-site golf operations in the UK, with 42 years in multi-site golf operations. He has used his experience and knowledge to produce a book on the subject.

**Contact: Jill or James**

Tel: 01347 833 800

To advertise in GI contact Jill or James
in the UK, particularly in western regions. Therefore what are the options available to course managers?

Drag Matting

This is a quick and low cost method whereby the drag mat can be towed behind an assortment of vehicles from a bunker rake to a golf cart. It is not suitable for working in larger quantities of material but ideal for light dustings and has been a common practice for decades.

Drag Brushing

A towed drag brush achieves similar results to the drag mat but has the same limitations. A brush mounted on the three point tractor linkage inserts more pressure but still has some limitations in what is achieved. However it is a useful play for producing more upright growth prior to being mown.

There are all sorts of mounted brushes available ranging from a Sias ‘Zig-Zag’ brush to the Green Tek ‘Multi Brush’ which can be fitted to give a ‘triple’ action spread for top dressing, while dispensing dew or grass clippings on fairways when dressing, while dispersing dew or winter tees, they can still prove useful for this purpose.

Contra-Rotating Brushes

These are more commonly referred to as ‘Sweep and Fill’ brushes, with two variations available: the original Sweep n’ Fill brush from JSM or the TB220 from R&K Kensett Ltd.

The two rotating brushes have the ability to move larger volumes of sand into core holes in a few passes, even when the sand is damp.

Both types come complete with transport wheels which are raised for working and can be towed behind a basic vehicle.

For the first time it is possible to completely fill all core holes under reasonable conditions quickly and efficiently without requiring large numbers of staff.

These brushes are also useful for grooming greens surfaces and helping to increase green speed. It also gives Course Managers the option of using slightly smaller and less disruptive coring tines while still able to fill the holes.

In-house variations

The use of an old upturned range mat which is towed behind any small vehicle gives a very satisfactory performance for working in small amounts of dressing for next to no cash outlay.

When these mats become worn and unsuitable for use on the range or winter tees, they can still prove useful for this purpose.

Another variation is to use a metal frame and pallet and then cover this with astroturf or similar to form a small robust unit with additional weight.

SUMMARY

Course Managers are always looking at ways to improve efficiency and the quality of putting surfaces. There are brushes, mats and blowers available to meet these objectives and to suit all course budgets, some more capable than others.

For completely filling core holes, the most effective method to date is the use of one of the contra rotating brushes which overcomes an age old problem.

For courses that have little or no need for coring, then any of the other alternative methods will serve the purpose at a relatively modest cost.

Much depends on what you intend to achieve and also the timing, since working top dressing into the putting surface is better achieved when playing surfaces are dry and the grass is actively growing during warmer temperatures.

To advertise in GI contact Jill or James 01347 833 800

Outstanding Top Dressing and Grooming Brush

The TB 220™ has a 2 year limited warranty

To advertise In GI

about the author

Laurence Pithie MG

Laurence Pithie MG runs his own training and knowledge to produce a number of recent ‘case study’ articles.

Laurence Pithie MG runs his own training and knowledge to produce a number of recent ‘case study’ articles.
INFINI System™ list prices and cassette choices

| Traction unit and chassis | INFINI System™ 22” traction unit with chassis | £4,420
| Petrol Power Module | £1,500
| Battery Power Module | £720

**SMART Cassette**

- SMARTCassette 7.11 with 14 blades | £995
- SMARTThatchSmasher | £995
- SMARTCutter | £1,150
- SMARTLawnGroomer | £2,160
- SMARTSlicer | £950
- SMARTTrimmer | £795
- SMARTSpiker | £794
- SMARTPowerBrush | £794
- SMARTBrushCaddy | £695

**Complete mower guide price** | £8,546

(To include Traction unit with Petrol Power Module, SMARTCassette, Rear roller power brush, Transport kit and Green bucket.)

---

INFINI System™ market technology through The Grass Group. A critical decision and the power? Which brings us back to where we started. The Grass Group has a lot to say about the ATT System and the INFINI System™ pedestrian traction unit. So much so that the versatility almost gets in the way of the basics. Look at the INFINI System traction unit as a mower that can be battery or hybrid powered first. Try it out as a greens mower.

In hybrid guise, the power unit will do what a conventional greens mower will do. It will also do the same on battery power, but will need a fresh power pack or recharge after seven holes. If the unit impresses as a mower, then you can look at the full range of INFINI System options that enable it to do more. Were we impressed? We did not have the machine long enough to come away with a concrete yes.

You can only give that when you have a machine for long enough to learn how to work with it and see how a swap to various SMART cas- settes works on a repeated basis.

Initial impressions suggest the INFINI System is certainly a good mower and one that can draw an open mind should put on their demo list.

I think we would need more time to really get to grips with what the INFINI System offers,” says Course Manager Phil Helms.

“The system is packed with some really good ideas and I can see the appeal of being able to swap cas- settes and even use the same units on a ride-on triple. Electric drive and hybrid power is interesting but battery power is too short in our application”.

Thanks to Phil Helms, Dave Copes, Mark Davies, Heythrop Park Resort and Jon Proffitt at The Grass Group.

---

James de Haviland gives us his verdict on the ATT INFINI System™ with a little help from his friends at Heythrop Park

Manufactured by Advanced Turf Technology, the ATT INFINI System is sold and marketed through The Grass Group. This is a clever bit of kit, but what is it exactly? As the INFINI System concept is keen to show both its versa- tility and choice of battery or hybrid power, the basic message may well get lost. So rather than go into all the various options and cassette choices it is best to focus on one simple point. In this system based around a good pedestrian greens mower?

The short answer is a qualified yes. If you just want a conventional dedicated pedestrian 22” greens mower, and nothing else, you may go for a proven mower from the likes of Barone, John Deere, Toro or Jacobsen instead. But with this machine you have both its cas- sette system and alternative power options to consider.

Let’s look at the INFINI System traction unit in its wholly battery powered mode. Taking power via a 30kg lead acid battery pack, it does without fancy lithium ion power cells.

The downside is that the power pack will run out of puff after com- pleting up to seven typical greens. You would need to buy another battery pack or two to complete an 18 hole course, swapping over exhausted packs as they run out of juice.

For most golf courses, this will be too much of a hassle to consider. So ATT has another solution in the form of 1.5kW Power Modules which simply slots in place of the battery pack. This two-power option could mean you can carry out hushed early morning mowing for some of the holes on the battery and then switch to day-long hybrid stamina as the rest of the world wakes up. Seems like a good compromise.

None of this is of any relevance unless the traction unit itself is mated to a mowing ‘cassette’ that delivers a top-notch finish. If you are blessed with the healthy dose of cynicism that protects you from spurious claims, the chances are you will need some convincing.

Greensa mowers are precision tools, and a cassette mower ele- ment could suggest versatility over cut-quality. Well - be prepared to be pleasantly surprised. During our all too brief run with the INFINI Sys- tem in its mower role the finish it achieved was top notch.

“The way in which the mower follows contours is good,” says Dave Copes, mechanic at Heythrop Park. “From a mechanic’s point of view the cassette system has the attraction of making it easy to swap the mower for one with different settings quickly too.”

A key advantage of the cassette system developed by ATT is that it was developed as a mower first. The mounting system incorporates a flexible system that allows the cas- sette chassis to move in the lateral plain. In work, the cutting cylinder’s freedom to follow contours ensures a good cut over undulations with a reduced risk of scalping. An added twist on the cylinder is the ability to adjust its angle to the bottom blade. As the latter is worn back and reground, the way in which it acts against the cylinder blades alters. This can be adjusted on the ATT cutting head, enabling more of the bottom blade to be used before it needs to be replaced, with no need to compromise the quality of cut.

The cassette chassis itself is engineered to allow the cylinder, of either 7, 11 or 14 blades, to be popped out and replaced with a choice of turfcare tools – see left. In itself, the cassette chassis is an interesting part of the system as it comprises front and rear rolls, with the choice of ribbed or smooth front unit and with a gear driven power brush option for the smooth roll at the back.

In fact it is the detailing of the mower that impresses. All the bear- ings are sealed units of a standard design. If you need a new one you can buy a replacement from pretty much any decent bearing supplier.

Even the batteries in the battery power pack are replaceable with types available from a motorcycle dealer.

“I think the mower feels a bit heavy with the battery in place but it is just fine with the engine power pack,” says Mark Davies, green- keeper at Heythrop. “We also run the battery flat in just under seven greens. Even allowing for the quiet operation in battery mode, I would choose hybrid power.”

Same cassettes fit ride-on triples

The cassette chassis plus an adaptor kit will also fit John Deere, Toro, Jacobsen and Hustler Turf ride-on-triples. The Grass Group has existing cassette users employ- ing essentially the same units on their triples as used for the INFINI System.

Of equal importance, a ride-on can be fitted with all-new cutting cylinders, so allowing triple users to keep an existing mower but eco- nomically reconvert with all-new cutting units.

Which brings us back to where we started.

The Grass Group has a lot to say about the ATT System and the INFINI System™ pedestrian traction unit. So much so that the versatility almost gets in the way of the basics. Look at the INFINI System traction unit as a mower that can be battery or hybrid powered first. Try it out as a greens mower.

In hybrid guise, the power unit will do what a conventional greens mower will do. It will also do the same on battery power, but will need a fresh power pack or recharge after seven holes.

If the unit impresses as a mower, then you can look at the full range of SMART cassette options that enable it to do more. Were we impressed? We did not have the machine long enough to come away with a concrete yes.

You can only give that when you have a machine for long enough to learn how to work with it and see how a swap to various SMART cas- sette works on a repeated basis. Initial impressions suggest the INFINI System is certainly a good mower and one those with an open mind should put on their demo list.

“Very keen to shout about both its versa-

tility and choice of battery or hybrid power, the basic message may well get lost”
INFINiSystem™ list prices and cassette choices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traction unit and chassis</td>
<td>£5,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFINiSystem™ 22” traction unit with chassis</td>
<td>£5,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrol Power Module</td>
<td>£1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery Power Module</td>
<td>£720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMART Cassette</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTCassette 7 11 or 14 blades</td>
<td>£990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTThatchmaster</td>
<td>£995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTVibe</td>
<td>£1,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTULtraGroomer</td>
<td>£1,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTScarer</td>
<td>£795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTSnip</td>
<td>£795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTSplicer</td>
<td>£795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTPowerBrush</td>
<td>£795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTBag</td>
<td>£695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete mower guide price</td>
<td>£8,546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This two-power option could be fitted with all-new cutting cylinders, so allowing triple users to keep an existing mower but economically rejuvenated with all-new cutting units. Which brings us back to where we started.

The Grass Group has a lot to say about the ATT System and the INFINiSystem pedestrian traction unit. So much so that the versatility almost gets in the way of the basics. Look at the INFINiSystem traction unit as a mower that can be battery or hybrid powered first. Try it out as a greens mower. In hybrid guise, the power unit will do what a conventional greens mower will do. It will also do the same on battery power, but will need a fresh power pack or recharge after seven holes.

If the unit impresses as a mower, then you can look at the full range of SMART cassette options that enable it to do more. Were we impressed? We did not have the machine long enough to come away with a concrete yes.

You can only give that when you have a machine for long enough to learn how to work with it and see how a swap to various SMART cassettes works on a repeated basis. Initial impressions suggest the INFINiSystem is certainly a good mower and one those with an open mind should put on their demo list.

“I think we would need more time to really get to grips with what the INFINiSystem offers,” says Course Manager Phil Helmn.

“The system is packed with some really good ideas and I can see the appeal of being able to swap cassettes and even use the same units on a ride-on triple. Electric drive and hybrid power is interesting but battery power is too short in our application”.

Thanks to Phil Helmn, Dave Capes, Mark Davies, Heythrop Park Resort and Jon Pfitzner at The Grass Group.
Events Coming Up
West - The Norrie Whytock annual challenge will be taking place at Auchterarder with the qualifiers Gordon Sangster, Stuart Taylor, David McBride and John Barr, all winners of their classes at the spring outing. We hope they can achieve a victory as it’s been a while since the West section has come near.

Central - Over 25 people came along to Elmwood on 23 July to hear John Kaminsky of Penn State give us the inside story of the recent US Open at Merion. With our own Open had just passed made for an interesting comparison.

Welcome New Scotland Members
Robert Galloway, Greenkeeper, Turnberry Hotel & Golf Course, Ayrshire
David Rocke, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Central
Robert Frazer, Assistant Greenkeeper, Castle Stuart Golf Links, North.
John Bambury, Course Manager, Trump Golf Club, North Island

Welcome New Northern Members
David Barker, Groundsman, Micklehurst Cricket Club, North West
Robert O’Hare, Groundsman, Maghull Town Council, North West
Howard Lythgoe, Affiliate Member, Ashton & Lea Golf Club, North West
Andrew Gilligan, Greenkeeper, Wilsaw Golf Club, North West
Liam Bishard, Greenkeeper, Driffield Golf Club, Northern Charlie Pasco, Assistant Greenkeeper, Saltburn Golf Club, Cleveland
Nicholas Holmes, Groundsman, Roundwood Golf Club, Sheffield
Stephen Washbrook, Assistant Greenkeeper, Aberdovey Golf Club, North Wales

Events Coming Up
North East - Brand new summer comp which will become an annual event will be held on 21 August at Percy Wood Golf & Country Club, this will be a stableford, entry fee £10 to members and £15 to non members. Included in the bag will be a prize followed by a buffet meal and a few drinks at the end of the day.

North West - The autumn tournament is to take place at Royal St. David’s Harlech on September 18 please return your entry forms and payment to Carl as soon as possible so the starting sheet for this will be filled very quickly.

NEWS
North East - The recent match with the Cleveland section was a win to the Cleveland lads. Played at Durham City which by all accounts was a superb condition so credit must go to Stan and his team. Just let the section know that myself Glen Baxten is now writing the news for the section as the committee felt I was best equipped to gather any news from my rounds when visiting you all.

North West - The recent match with the Cleveland section was a win to the Cleveland lads. Played at Durham City which by all accounts was a superb condition so credit must go to Stan and his team. Just let the section know that myself Glen Baxten is now writing the news for the section as the committee felt I was best equipped to gather any news from my rounds when visiting you all.

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...

Blackwell Grange GC with Dougie Avery becoming Course Manager. Good luck in the new role.

Northern - Presidents day at Scarthingwell GC - a huge thank you to Ben and his staff for a very welcoming venue and also to John Waite and the boys for setting up a fantastic course, all the guys thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was reflected in the scoring! Results below.

North West - I’m sorry to report the passing of larger than life global hygiene rep, Alan Sergeant who died in July and it is also my sad duty to report the passing of another part of sales history in our area as Graham Walker ex of Walker Brothers, St Martins also died in July our heartfelt wishes go to family and friends of both.

Results

Northern - Presidents Day. Winners: Div 1: D Gomney; 2 R Harris; 3 A Auterson; Div 2: R Walker 2 B Gomersal 3 J Waite; Div 3: 1 A Armitage 2 R Smith; 3 R Jackson Trade 1 G Baxter 2 Y Anderson nearest the pin 1st FRDD 2nd FBlt, president pri R Walker.

Sheffield: A very good day was had and was well attended at Dore & Totley, the course is in good condition and thanks goes to John Goldthorpe and his staff. The day was won by A. Unwin with a score of 70 nett.

North West - The summer tournament at Oreamkirk golf club was well attended and a great day was had by all. The course was in magnificent condition and I would like to thank Mike and his staff for a great day. The winner was Paul Pierce. Nearest the pin was Paul again and longest drive was Gary Burgess. The guest prize was won by Tony Keadus.

THANKS TO SPONSORS
North East - Thanks to TSL for sponsoring our match against the Cleveland section.

Cleveland – Thanks to Northern Lubricants, Atkins, Rigby Taylor, Peter Marshall and Greenley for sponsoring the spring outing.

Northen - Presidents day. Thanks to the sponsors: unfortunately Simon from Everi’s couldn’t make it but it was lovely to see Rebecca from Sherriff stood in for him, a great thank you to Events for their continued support of our section.

North West - We thank Bathgates Leisure in the form of Nick Gray for sponsoring the cricket evening at Ashley cricket club.

All the latest news from your Section, in your new look notes pages...
around the green

Scotland

News
- Something I forgot to mention was the recent accident involving Gary Divers’ son Christopher who was over in the states at university, unfortunately he was involved in an accident and passed away in hospital. The section would like to pass on our thoughts and condolences during this time.
- John Cheadle at Paisley Bishes GC suffered some severe damage to a few greens in recent months, we hope this will be the last of it and would wish him the best of luck trying to get things back to normal. Derek Duthie informs that he is celebrating 25 years service with Atkins Seedman, Derek as everybody knows is the sales representative for the west of Scotland, originally he started as an apprentice at Cardross, and moved on the Head Greenkeeper at Cumnalaguill before shifting path onto the sales route, its nice to see he has made a full recovery from his car accident a couple of years ago.
- Central - Over 25 people came along to Elwood on 23 July to hear John Kaminski of Pen State give us the inside story of the recent US Open at Merion where from our own Open had just passed made for an interesting comparison. The pairs competition is progressing well with a couple of teams close to securing their places in the semi-finals. Please remember to email or text me your results as soon as possible.

Welcome New Scotland Members
Robert Galloway, Greenkeeper, Turnberry Hotel & Golf Course, Ayrshire
David Rock, Student, SRUC (Elginwood), Central
Robert Frazer, Assistant Greenkeeper, Castle Stuart Golf Links, North
John Bambury, Course Manager, Trump Golf Course, North

Welcome New Northern Members
David Barker, Groundsman, Middlesbrough Cricket Club, North
Robert O’Hare, Groundsman, Maghull Town Council, North
Howard Lythgoe, AffiliateMember, Ashton & Les Golf Club, North
Andrew Gillagan, Greenkeeper, Wilsnaks Golf Club, North
Liam Bashford, Greenkeeper, Driffield Golf Club, Northern
Charlie Pasco, Assistant Greenkeeper, Saltburn Golf Club, Cleveland
Nicholas Nicholls, Groundsman, Roundwood Golf Club, Sheffield
Stephen Washbrook, Assistant Greenkeeper, Aberdovey Golf Club, North Wales

Events Coming Up
- The Norrie Whytock annual challenge will be taking place at Auchterarder with the qualifiers Gordon Sangster, Stuart Taylor, David McBride and John Barr, all winners of their classes at the spring outing. We hope they can achieve a victory as it’s been a while since the West section has come near.
- The Autumn outing is now booked and we will be going up to Moray Golf Club in Lossiemouth on the 1 May 2014, we hope you can make the effort to attend as we are very sure it will be a great day. The team for the Norrie Whytock trophy has now been picked so further details will follow in the Sept issue, and please get in touch with any other news.
- North - On a sad note the North Section would like to pass on their condolences to the family and friends of Greenkeeper Craig Smith. Craig worked at Royal Dornoch Golf Club before moving out to work in Australia where he was tragically killed following an accident.
- Central - The next event in the Section will be the Autumn tournament on 4 September at Stirling Golf Club. Entry forms should be with you any day if they haven’t yet arrived. There will also be one posted on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...
Events Coming Up

East Midlands - Having had our trip to Kedleston Park at the beginning of August our next event is at Lutterworth Golf Club on 31 October (no I won’t be wearing my Halloween mask, this is also our AGM so please think up some questions / suggestions to put to the committee. Or if you are interested in helping on the committee then put yourself forward for selection.

News

East Midlands - Niall Collett in Coventry on Wednesday 3 July played host to our annual par 3 competition. This year the committee decided to sponsor the event and we had a well supported day on a beautiful sunny afternoon. The course was, as ever, excellent. Results below

There is a suggestion within the section to get a five-a-side football competition going.

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...

Midland - was excellent and we were very well looked after by Nailcote Hall.

Movers & Shakers

East Midlands - We would like to welcome Ken Harding to the Leicestershire area. Ken has taken on the reins at Willesley Park Golf Club for what looks like an exciting time for one of the country’s most prestigious courses. Ken has immediately been involved in the section playing in Carl Chamberlain’s Rigby Taylor team at Nailcote Hall.

Sponsors

Midland - Our thanks to the sponsors for our last golf day at Penn on 10 July. The main prize table for the day was sponsored by Farmura. The 4 nearest the pin prizes were donated by Whitehorns, Sheriff Amenity, Countrywide and our President, John Hammond. Thanks also to Farols for the halfway house and all those who brought raffle prizes.

There is a suggestion within the section to get a five-a-side football competition going.

Currently Scrapthorn GC, with Player/Manager Nigel ‘The Special One’ White, seem to be hammering everyone.

As if anyone is interested in getting involved and taking out some of your frustrations on other greenkeepers then drop me an email/text or even phone me and lets see what can be arranged.

4 Karl Williams 32pts, Rhys-Thomas 31pts. Nearest the pins were A-Jones, Andy Broughman, L Swann & J Fox.

Our thanks to Paul Mills and his fine team for presenting the course in such fantastic condition, and to the Club for allowing us courtesy of the course and clubhouse for the day.

East of England - Marlet Rasen May 22: 1 Simon Bossett, 2 Peter Allinace, 3 Bruce Hicks, 4 Robin Portess. Ian Collett from Rigby Taylor was Trade winner. Nearest the pins: Geoff Wand, Matt Haynes, Alex Claricoates, Carl Chamberlain.

East Midlands - Thank you to John Hewson and his staff at Market Rasen for providing a course in excellent condition. Also to all the clubhouse staff for making us welcome and providing an excellent meal afterwards.

Thanks also go to our sponsors on the day, LMS Lincoln Ltd for the main prizes, and T.A.S for the nearest the pin. T.A.S is the new business venture of Garry Pode, formerly Course Manager at Belton Park. His number is 07701 034100.

Welcome New Midland Members

Liam King, Assistant Greenkeeper, Oakmere Park Golf Club, East Midlands
Joshua Rimington, Assistant Greenkeeper, Manor (Lacey) Golf Club, East Midlands
Taylor Fox, Assistant Greenkeeper, Vale Golf and Country Club (The), Midlands
David Hartling, Greenkeeper, Marriott Forest of Arden, Midlands
Mark Cleverley, Greenkeeper, Marriott Forest of Arden, Midlands
Adam Williams, Greenkeeper, Marriott Forest of Arden, Midlands
Stewart Welby, Greenkeeper 21 yrs & over, Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club, East of England
Steven Bashall, Assistant Greenkeeper, Claire’s Court School, BISHO
Paul Sunman, Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club, Mid Anglia
Jack Micas, Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club, Mid Anglia
Jordan Evans, Greenkeeper, Trent Park Golf Club, Mid Anglia
Iain Riggs, Assistant Greenkeeper, Trent Park Golf Club, Mid Anglia

Results

East Midlands - Par 3 comp results 1 Beedles Lake 83pts, 2 Scraptoft Golf Club, East Midlands
Jodie Rigg, Assistant Greenkeeper 21 yrs & over, Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club, East of England
Steve Bashall, Assistant Greenkeeper, Claire’s Court School, BISHO
Paul Sunman, Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club, Mid Anglia
Jack Micas, Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club, Mid Anglia
Jordan Evans, Greenkeeper, Trent Park Golf Club, Mid Anglia
Iain Riggs, Assistant Greenkeeper, Trent Park Golf Club, Mid Anglia

This month’s quiz simply has to focus on the Open Championship of 2013:

1) At Muirfield, which luckless lict was in the hunt for the Claret Jug before hitting a quintuple bogey nine during his third round?
2) Which former Open champion missed Muirfield because of shoulder surgery?
3) Name the two amateurs who made the cut.
4) Name the Scottish player who drove home to Aberdeen thinking he had missed the cut only to receive a text telling him he had made it?
5) Name the runner up.
6) Name the two players who shot a 67 on the final day.
7) How many over par did Rory McIlroy finish for his two rounds?
8) Which golfer legend made the cut but finished +23?
9) Which South African player smashed his club on the 15th?

This month’s calendar page is sponsored by Sherriff Amenity. Please consider them for your fertiliser, chemical, seed and dressing needs. Email: nigel.tyler@agrovista.co.uk. Tel: 07931 548058.
Around The Green

Midland - was excellent and we were very well looked after by Nailcote Hall. GC 81, 3 the event sponsors The Committee team with 79. The barbecue East Midland –

Events Coming Up

Midland - Having had our trip to Kedleston Park at the beginning of August our next event is at Lutterworth Golf Club on 31 October (no I won’t be wearing my Halloween mask), this is also our AGM so please think up some questions/suggestions to put to the committee. Or if you are interested in helping on the committee then put yourself forward for selection.

Movers & Shakers

Midland - We would like to welcome Ken Harding to the Leicestershire area. Ken has taken on the reins at Willesley Park Golf Club for what looks like an exciting time for one of the county’s most prestigious courses. Ken has immediately been involved in the section playing in Carl Chamberlain’s Rigby Taylor team at Nailcote Hall.

Sponsors

Midland - Our thanks to the sponsors for our last golf day at Penner on 10 July. The main prize table for the day was sponsored by Farmura. The 4 nearest the pin prizes were donated by Whiteman, Sherriff Amenity, Countrywide and our President, JohnHammond. Thanks also to Fodors for the halfway house and all those who brought raffle prizes.

News

Midland - Naillacote Hall in Coventry on Wednesday 3 July played host to our annual par 3 competition. This year the committee decided to sponsor the event and we had a well supported day on a beautiful sunny afternoon. The course was, as ever, excellent. Results below

There is a suggestion within the section to get a five-a-side football competition going. Currently Scraptoft GC, with Player/Manager Nigel ‘The Special One’ White, seem to be hammering everyone.

So if anyone is interested in getting involved and taking out some of your frustrations on other greenkeepers then drop me an email/text or think up some questions/suggestions to put to the committee. Or if you are interested in helping on the committee then put yourself forward for selection.

Results

Par 3 comp results 1 Beedles Lake 83pts, 2 Scraptoft, 3 currently Scraptoft GC, with Player/Manager Nigel ‘The Special One’ White, seem to be hammering everyone.

Currently Scraptoft GC, with Player/Manager Nigel ‘The Special One’ White, seem to be hammering everyone.

Around The Green

East Midland - Market Rasen May 22: 1 Simon Bossett, 2 Peter Allison, 3 Bruce Hicks, 4 Robin Portess. Ian Collett from Rigby Taylor was Trade winner. Nearest the pins: Geoff Wand, Matt Haynes, Alex Claricoates, Carl Chamberlain

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for About the Green...

BB&O - the Stick

Midland

EAST OF ENGLAND

BB&O - the Stick

Midland

EAST OF ENGLAND

BB&O - the Stick

Midland

EAST OF ENGLAND

BB&O - the Stick

Midland

EAST OF ENGLAND

BB&O - the Stick

Midland

East Midland - Iain Biggs, Assistant Greenkeeper, Trent Park Golf Club, Mid Anglia. Jordan Evans, Greenkeeper, Trent Park Golf Club, Mid Anglia. Iain Riggs, Assistant Greenkeeper, Trent Park Golf Club, Mid Anglia.

CROSSWORD

Across

2 Follow closely (3)
7 Insects in massive development stage (5)
8 Aloepis lagopus - mamall of the arctic regions (6,3)
9 Darta player known as ‘The Crafty Cockney’ (4,7)
11 Traditional French pastry (3-4)
13 Medieval order of knighthood (5)
16 Emergency procedure used in e.g. cardiac arrest (3-4)
18 Ballroom dance which uses pauses at intervals (10,5)
20 Emergency procedure used in e.g. cardiac arrest (3)
22 Eponymous hero of 1876 renewed state (11)
24 Queen of witches (7)

Down

1 Bursary of American novelist noted for his Harry Rabbit’ Auggstrom works (8)
2 Plant also known as stinking cranesbill (4)
3 Central characters in a sitcom written by James Corden and Ruth Jones (5,3,6)
5 Name the runner-up.
6 Name the Scottish player who made the cut.
7 Interactive videotext service introduced in 1979 (7)
8 Name the two players who shot a 67 on the final day.
9 Name the two amateurs who made it?
10 Darts player known as ‘The Special One’ (4,7)
11 Name the Scottish player who made the cut.
12 Goddess of witches also known as ‘The Crafty Cockney’ (4)
13 Name the two players who made it?
14 Name the two players who made it?
15 Goddess of witches also known as ‘The Crafty Cockney’ (4)
16 Name the two players who made it?
17 Name the two players who made it?
18 Goddess of witches also known as ‘The Crafty Cockney’ (4)
19 Name the two players who made it?
20 Emergency procedure used in e.g. cardiac arrest (3-4)
21 Of a mobile phone, to operate on a different network when abroad (4)
22 Emergency procedure used in e.g. cardiac arrest (3-4)
23 Emergency procedure used in e.g. cardiac arrest (3-4)
24 Name the runner-up.
25 Name the runner-up.
26 Name the runner-up.
27 Name the runner-up.
28 Name the runner-up.
29 Name the runner-up.
30 Name the runner-up.
31 Name the runner-up.
32 Name the runner-up.
33 Name the runner-up.
34 Name the runner-up.
35 Name the runner-up.
36 Name the runner-up.
37 Name the runner-up.
38 Name the runner-up.
39 Name the runner-up.
40 Name the runner-up.
41 Name the runner-up.
42 Name the runner-up.
43 Name the runner-up.
44 Name the runner-up.
45 Name the runner-up.
46 Name the runner-up.
47 Name the runner-up.
48 Name the runner-up.
49 Name the runner-up.
50 Name the runner-up.
51 Name the runner-up.

Quick ‘Nine Hole’ Quiz

This month’s quiz simply has to focus on the Open Championship of 2013:

1) At Muirfield, which luckless Scot was in the hunt for the Claret Jug before hitting a quadruple bogey nine during his third round?
2) Which former Open champion missed Muirfield because of shoulder surgery?
3) Name the two amateurs who made the cut.
4) Name the Scottish player who drove home to Aberdeen thinking he had missed the cut only to

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A to E.

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9x9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Puzzle Answers

on page 65
around the green

south east

news

Events Coming Up

**Essex** - Next golf day Thursday 15 August at Channels Golf Club. Bacon roll and coffee from 11.00am, 18 hole Shuffled (this event is the National Qualifier, two places up for grabs, plus a BBQ afterwards, £20 members/sponsors, £30 guests, cheques made payable to "BIGGA Essex") please!

This event was a great success last time around, so don't miss out on a fun day with good food and camaraderie. Entries to Antony Kirby, at "Play Golf Colchester" Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex. CO3 4AU or antz16@btinternet.com by Saturday 10 August please.

Membership clarification will be required prior to your playing at all events this year please.

Details are on the website, under Competition Rules 2013 this is within the golf section of the website section.

We have also decided to sell our raffle tickets before you play, rather than haggier you afterwards. This we hope will speed things along and allow you all to sit down for your dinner quicker upon your return from the course.

Tickets will be on sale when you collect your scorecard.

**Kent** - Many thanks to Lister Wilder who have offered to join our very welcome group of kind sponsors.

We have just learned that one of our section's friends and most loyal sponsors has been taken ill with quite a serious medical condition.

On behalf of everyone in our group I would like to wish Stewart Clayton of Greensman Ltd a full a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Welcome New South East Members

Danny Perkins, Greenkeeper, Wentworth Club (Th), Surrey

Mark Ogden, Course Manager, Drift Golf Club, Surrey

Neil Highgate, Assistant Greenkeeper, Cotsworne Golf Club, Surrey

Sean Blyth, Greenkeeper, Goodwood Club Ltd (Th), Sussex

Simon Berry, Greenkeeper, Goodwood Club Ltd (Th), Sussex

Christopher Ahler, Greenkeeper, Hassocks Golf Club, Sussex

Jamie Chapman, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hendon Golf Club, London

Lexus Dunn-Allen, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hendon Golf Club, London

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...

**Sussex**

- Away day: Longest drive, John Hill. Nearest the pin in two was Matt Hutchinson.

- Nearest the pin in 3 was Graham White. In the team competition 3 The “Seasod boys” with 86pts. 2 "Team Mitchell" with 88. 1 the "Fortliss" with an incredible 97 with a blob!? Once again thanks to all attendees for supporting the section on this away day.

- Results - Results from Worpleton GC: 1 Alan Crittenden 76 Gross Nett 69 2 Phil Benney Nett 72 3 Robin Cheyne Nett 72 Best Gross: Jason Hunt 7;

- Nearest Pin Gavin Kyle, Long Drive Mark Davies. Alan Crittenden and Mark Davies qualify for the National Tournament at Frilford Heath.

Thanks To Sponsors

**Sussex** - Thanks to away day sponsors Mitchells Groundcare and Pete Smith for organising.

**Kent** - Many thanks to Lister Wilder who have offered to join our very welcome group of kind sponsors.

We have just learned that one of our section's friends and most loyal sponsors has been taken ill with quite a serious medical condition.

On behalf of everyone in our group I would like to wish Stewart Clayton of Greensman Ltd a full a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Welcome New South East Members

Danny Perkins, Greenkeeper, Wentworth Club (Th), Surrey

Mark Ogden, Course Manager, Drift Golf Club, Surrey

Neil Highgate, Assistant Greenkeeper, Cotsworne Golf Club, Surrey

Sean Blyth, Greenkeeper, Goodwood Club Ltd (Th), Sussex

Simon Berry, Greenkeeper, Goodwood Club Ltd (Th), Sussex

Christopher Ahler, Greenkeeper, Hassocks Golf Club, Sussex

Jamie Chapman, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hendon Golf Club, London

Lexus Dunn-Allen, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hendon Golf Club, London

BIGGA National Championship 2013. Frilford Heath Golf Club, October 7-8 • Entry Form

Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member

- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £90 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Post Code: ____________________________

Start Date ___________ Expiry Date ___________

Last 3 security digits: __________________________

Issue No (Switch/Delta only) ___________

Card number: ___________________________

Signature: ___________________________

Date: ___________________________

Membership No: ___________________________

Handicap: __________

BIGGA Section: ___________________________

Golf Club: ___________________________

Payment method (please tick)

- I enclose my cheque made payable to ‘BIGGA Ltd’ value £90

- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £90

Deadline for entry is 6th September 2013.

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

There will be prizes for the first five over 36 holes in the gross category. The top three in the nett competition will also receive prizes. After each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions.

The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the best nett scores over the first day of play. There will also be various nearest the pin and longest drive competitions, featuring prizes.

BIGGA Section: ___________________________

Golf Club: ___________________________

Or E-mail your details to: rachael@bigga.co.uk

Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £90

Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £90

Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £90

In order to enter or for more information please contact Rachael@bigga.co.uk
South East

Events Coming Up

Essex - Next golf day Thursday 15 August at Channels Golf Club. Bacon roll and coffee from 11.00am, 18 hole Stableford this event is the National Qualifier, two places up for grabs, plus a BBQ afterwards, £20 members/sponsors, £30 guests, cheques made payable to “BIGGA Essex” please!

This event was a great success last time around, so don’t miss out on a fun day with good food and camaraderie.

Entries to Antony Kewar, at “Play Golf Colchester” Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex. CO3 4AU or antz16@btinternet.com by Saturday 10 August please.

Membership clarification will be required prior to your playing at all events this year please.

Details are on the website, under Competition Rules 2013 this is within the golf section of the website office.

We have also decided to sell our raffle tickets before you play, rather than hand you afterwards. This we hope will speed things along and allow you all to sit down for your dinner quicker upon your return from the course.

Tickets will be on sale when you collect your scorecard. Enjoy your day at Channels.

“So you want to be promoted…?”

Ben Scriver is still waiting to hear from you. We would like to support the section on this away day.

There is more information about this event on our website.

Surrey - Cresta Cup at Wimbledon Park GC on 24 September 2013. Email Interested then contact Ben gingermunky@hotmail.com at Channels.

Surrey – Our planned Foot Golf event has been temporarily postponed – see email for more information.

Surrey – Away day: Longest drive, John Hill. Nearest the pin in two was Matt Hutchinson. Nearest the pin in 3 was Graham White. In the team competition 3 The “Seasod boys” with 86pts, 2 “Team Mitchell” with 88, 1 the “Tortillas” with an incredible 97 with a blob! Once again thank’s to all attendees for supporting the section on this away day.

Surrey - Results from Wargrappion GC: 1 Alan Crittenden 76 Gross Nett 69 2 Phill Bény Nett 72 3 Robin Cheney Nett 72 Best Gross Jason Hunt 7;

Nearest Pin Gavin Kyle, Long Drive Mark Davies, Alan Crittenden and Mark Davies qualify for the National Tournament at Frilford Heath.

Thanks to Sponsors

Surrey – Thanks to away day sponsors Mitchells Groundscare and Pete Smith for organising.

Kent - Many thanks to Lister Wilder who have offered to join our very welcome group of kind sponsors.

We have just learned that one of our section’s friends and most loyal sponsors has been taken ill with quite a serious medical condition.

On behalf of everyone in our group I would like to wish Stewart Clayton of Greenman Ltd a full and speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Welcome New South East Members

Surrey

Danny Perks, Greenkeeper, Wentworth Club (The), Surrey

Mark Ogden, Course Manager, Drift Golf Club, Surrey

Neil Highgate, Assistant Greenkeeper, Cotsworne Golf Club, Surrey

Sean Elyth, Greenkeeper, Goodwood Club Ltd (The), Sussex

Simon Berry, Greenkeeper, Goodwood Club Ltd (The), Sussex

Christopher Abier, Greenkeeper, Hassocks Golf Club, Sussex

Jamie Chapman, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hendon Golf Club, London

Louis Dunn-Allen, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hendon Golf Club, London

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...

BIGGA National Championship 2013

Frilford Heath Golf Club, October 7-8 • Entry Form

Please select the relevant category:

Full Member

Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £90 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

Post Code: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________

Account number: ____________________________

Start Date: ____________________________

Expiry Date: ____________________________

3 security digits: ____________________________

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only): ____________________________

Mobile: ____________________________

E-mail: ____________________________

Membership No.: ____________________________

Handicap: ____________________________

BIGGA Section: ____________________________

Golf Club: ____________________________

Payment method (please tick)

I enclose my cheque made payable to “BIGGA Ltd” value £90

Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £90

Please select the relevant category:

Golf

Deadline for entry is 6th September 2013.

BIGGA House, Aldwark, Aire, York YO61 1UF

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

There will be prizes for the first five over 36 holes in the gross category. The top three in the nett competition will also receive prizes. After each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions.

The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. There will also be various nearest the pin and longest drive competitions, featuring prizes.
Results

South Wales - Thanks to all the Patrons who sponsored the inaugural golf tournament. I Gareth Hardisty (Bungahill Valley) 2 John Knight (Eckingtons) 3 Marc Anderson (Newport) Nearest the Pin Darryl Jones Longest Drive Ian Kinley

South Coast - South Coast Section summer tournament held at the Army Golf Club, 30 entrants and fine weather. Thanks firstly to the club for allowing us courtesy of the course which was presented in outstanding condition. Well done to Phil Wentworth and his team on achieving such high standards a great test of golf. 1 39 points Colin Hunt from Basingstoke GC 2 37pts on count back Chris Bitten (who rarely plays golf these day!) 3 37 pts Jamie Pender from Blue Mountain GC. Longest drive John Bay from Test Valley GC. Nearest the pin Mark Oglesby from Test Valley

Events Coming Up

South Wales - Our AGM will now he held at Machynys Peninsular Golf Club on Wednesday 16 October and not Haverfordwest as first noted. We have a team match v the South West at Chipping Sidbury 16 August 1pm tee off team to be announced. The match v the North is to be rearranged for a suitable date in September.

South West - SW Section v South Wales at Chipping Sidbury GC 15 August. SW Section v South Coast at N Wilts GC 26 September. Enquiries to Wayne Vincent (07958 630590).

News

South Wales - I would just like to say that the standard of the work of the greenkeepers in the South Wales Section is outstanding! Keep it going guys you’re doing a great job.

South West - A strong delegation from the SW was in attendance at Muirfield as part of the BIGGA Open Support Team. A fantastic week was had by all involved and a huge thank you must go out to everyone at HQ for the seamless organisation.

The annual match between SW Section and The Secretaries at The Manor House GC ended in a 4½ - 5½ victory to the Secretaries. Well done to Adam and Paul for taking on the opposition single-handedly.

Congratulations to Lee Whyte of Bowood GC and Paul Davies of Cradoc GC who will be representing the South West at the BIGGA National Championships at Frilford Heath GC in October.

SSHHH...

A new look

Based on feedback from the recent GI survey, we’ve refreshed and improved this section of the magazine.

Please send your news and photos in to your section correspondent or Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) by the 10th of each month

South West & Wales

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...
Results

South Wales - Thanks to all the Patrons who sponsored the inaugural golf tournament. 1 Gareth Hardisty (Buighall Valley) 2 John Knight (Elan Valley) g3) 3 Marc Anderson (Newport) Nearest the Pin Danny Jones Longest Drive Ian Kinley

South West - South Coast Section summer tournament held at the Army Golf Club, 30 entrants and fine weather. Thanks firstly to the club for allowing us courtesy of the course which was presented in outstanding condition. Well done to Phil Wentworth and his team on achieving such high standards a great test of golf 1 39 points Colin Hutt from Basingstoke GC 2 37pts on count back Chris Bitten (who rarely plays golf these days!) 3 37 pts Jamie Pender from Blue Mountain GC. Longest drive John Ray from Test Valley GC. Nearest the pin Mark Ogilvy from Test Valley

Movers and Shakers

South Wales - Andy Roach has left Haverfordwest GC after 28 year of loyal service we wish him every success in his new venture. Malcolm Davies has Left Cradoc GC After 35 years of loyal service, when he said to me he started in 1979 I said that was the year I was born! Good luck both.

South West - Special thanks to all of our Section Patrons for their ongoing support: EcoSolv, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura.

South Coast - Thanks to our Summer Comp sponsors Tacit and Maclay Day for presenting the prizes.

Welcome New South West & Wales Members

James Carah, Assistant Greenkeeper, Cricklade Hotel Golf Club, South West
George Briggs, Assistant Greenkeeper, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club, South Coast
Thomas Cunningham, Greenkeeper 21 yrs & over, Corhampton Golf Club, South Coast
Daniel Jeffries, Assistant Greenkeeper, Alresford Golf Club, South Coast

Welcome New International Members

David Colley, Rossislare Golf Club, International, Republic of Ireland
Sergio Baselgia, Golfpark Nuolen AG, Switzerland
David Colley, Rosslare Golf Club, International, Republic of Ireland

Thanks to Sponsors

South West - Our AGM will now he held at Machynys Peninsular Golf Club on Wednesday 16 October and not Haverfordwest as first noted. We have a team match v the South West at Cipping Sodbury 16 August 1pm tee off time to be announced. The match v the North is to rearranged for a suitable date in September.

South West - SW Section v South Wales at Cipping Sodbury GC 15 August. SW Section v South Coast at N Wilts GC 26 September. Enquiries to Wayne Vincent (07952 630590)

South Coast - Thanks to our Section Patrons for their continuing support - EcoSolv, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura.

Events Coming Up

South West - BIGGA National Championships at Frilford Heath GC in October.

David Colley, Rossislare Golf Club, International, Republic of Ireland
Sergio Baselgia, Golfpark Nuolen AG, Switzerland

News

South Wales - It would just like to say that the standard of the work of the greenkeepers in the South Wales Section is outstanding! Keep it going guys you’re doing a great job.

South West - A strong delegation from the SW was in attendance at Muirfield as part of the BIGGA Open Support Team. A fantastic week was had by all involved and a huge thank you must go out to everyone at HQ for the seamless organisation.

The annual match between SW Section and The Secretaries at The Manor House GC ended in a 4 ½ - 5 ½ victory to the Secretaries. Well done to Adam and Paul for taking on the opposition single-handedly. Congratulations to Lee Whyte of Bowood GC and Paul Davies has Left Cradoc GC After 35 years of loyal service, when he said to me he started in 1979 I said that was the year I was born! Good luck both.

Welcome New International Members

David Colley, Rossislare Golf Club, International, Republic of Ireland
Sergio Baselgia, Golfpark Nuolen AG, Switzerland

A new look

Based on feedback from the recent GI survey, we’ve refreshed and improved this section of the magazine.

Please send your news and photos in to your section correspondent or Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) by the 10th of each month

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...
From six feet, four out of ten putts are missed on the hole on a poor surface. But until recently, there has been no way of quantifying the problem in an objective fashion. However, a new tool has been launched which helps to monitor the surface performance of greens throughout the year. The Greenstester is an exciting and affordable new measuring tool which could regularly measure the trueness of golf greens. When golfers stand over a putt, if they stroke it on the right line and at the right pace they expect to have every chance of holing the putt.

The search then led back to an idea first used over a century ago. In 1900 Sir Ralph Payne-Gallwey used a ramp on a snooker table to prove that most golf balls at that time had a centre of gravity that was not centred. He did this by aiming a succession of balls at a thinible placed on the black spot, released down the ramp from the top of the table.

The idea for the Greenstester evolved because Nick Park, a long term member of The R&A Golf Course Committee, felt there was a requirement for an affordable tool which could regularly measure the trueness of golf greens. When golfers stand over a putt, if they stroke it on the right line and at the right pace they expect to have every chance of holing the putt. The search then led back to an idea first used over a century ago. In 1900 Sir Ralph Payne-Gallwey used a ramp on a snooker table to prove that most golf balls at that time had a centre of gravity that was not centred. He did this by aiming a succession of balls at a thinible placed on the black spot, released down the ramp from the top of the table.

The Greenstester is an exciting and affordable new measuring tool which could regularly measure the trueness of golf greens. When golfers stand over a putt, if they stroke it on the right line and at the right pace they expect to have every chance of holing the putt. The search then led back to an idea first used over a century ago. In 1900 Sir Ralph Payne-Gallwey used a ramp on a snooker table to prove that most golf balls at that time had a centre of gravity that was not centred. He did this by aiming a succession of balls at a thinible placed on the black spot, released down the ramp from the top of the table.

The Greenstester is an exciting and affordable new measuring tool which could regularly measure the trueness of golf greens. When golfers stand over a putt, if they stroke it on the right line and at the right pace they expect to have every chance of holing the putt. The search then led back to an idea first used over a century ago. In 1900 Sir Ralph Payne-Gallwey used a ramp on a snooker table to prove that most golf balls at that time had a centre of gravity that was not centred. He did this by aiming a succession of balls at a thinible placed on the black spot, released down the ramp from the top of the table.
"It became clear from our anecdotal evidence that the dominant fescue/bent greens provided the most reliable putting surface for year round golf."

Keith Adderley, Secretary at Waterville and Portmarnock Links, said: "Having been a facilitator observer during the process which saw the Greenstester conceived, tested and manufactured, I can see nothing but benefit from the reliability of putting surface, which has yielded savings in a number of areas."

From where I sit the golf industry will go in the hole? Well, the greens that are reliable, meaning that the ball goes where it is intended, are sure to reward good golfers. However, there is a cushioning effect for other golfers who are not as skilled, and they should keep their Greenslides going in every way."

If we make a perfect stroke, is the green reliable enough that the ball will go in the hole? Yes, if the putting is reliable enough that the ball will go in the hole!

Keith Adderley, Secretary at Waterville and Portmarnock Links, said: "Having been a facilitator observer during the process which saw the Greenstester conceived, tested and manufactured, I can see nothing but benefit from the reliability of putting surface, which has yielded savings in a number of areas."

From where I sit the golf industry will go in the hole? Well, the greens that are reliable, meaning that the ball goes where it is intended, are sure to reward good golfers. However, there is a cushioning effect for other golfers who are not as skilled, and they should keep their Greenslides going in every way."

If we make a perfect stroke, is the green reliable enough that the ball will go in the hole? Yes, if the putting is reliable enough that the ball will go in the hole!
Merion to Muirfield, who would be a Greenkeeper?

It was a timely reminder of the distance the modern ball travels that Merion had a par 4 finishing hole that could have played 530 yards for the US Open in June.

Just as Rose’s glorious victory was completed with a classic drive, it was a timely reminder of the distance the modern ball travels for the US Open in June. Played 530 yards for the US Open in June.

One leading player asked, “when you hit a 2-iron 350 yards, why take a driver?” However, a precedent for this was set in 1987 when, as the third round in terrible conditions of wind and rain, all at Merion, Sandy Lyle went round in 71 without hitting a single wooden club for any shot. 20 years on, players either couldn’t, didn’t want to or didn’t need to, take a driver - one solution for a 379 yard par four being a 7-iron and a sand wedge.

Donald Steel, GTC Chairman, Golf Course Architect and Golf writer, on the ongoing challenges facing greenkeepers.

“Merion’s reinstatement was a cause for rejoicing, a triumph for Matt Shaffer, Director of Golf Course Operations, whose brief was to set up Merion so that nobody broke par.”

inflicted on them nowadays even if it is acknowledged that width of fairways and pin positions are key ingredients in course presentation. Long ago, it was said that “without fast greens and thick rough, Merion, for all the strategic niceties of the holes, couldn’t hope to stand up to the present professional brigade”. But narrow fairways and thick rough can curb aggression which isn’t always what people pay to see although, happily, links golf should never respond purely to muscle power. Subtle touch, feel and judgement are greater requirements. When limits are exceeded on any course, greenkeepers rightly feel their job is undesirable not to say impossible. Rough cannot be grown to order significantly between six o’clock in the morning and six in the evening never mind from week to week. Things are rarely easy. Less than a twelfth after the US Open, Matt, back in Merion, faced 95 degree heat and insufferable humidity. And somewhere in the back of my mind, I seem to remember Phil Mickelson furrowing the first evening that some parts of some of the greens at Muirfield might be dead. Happily, Colin Irvine and his gallant band of helpers quickly showed they were alive and kicking. Mickelson, a Links convert, is set in the philosophy of keeping the greens as true as possible even from the shortest range. Just as unsavoury?

Thursday’s U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP®

Contact Details

www.greenkeepertraining.com
www.egeu.eu
Yo61 1Uf
GtC
david@the-gtc.co.uk

Merion was a cause for rejoicing, a triumph for Matt Shaffer, Director of Golf Course Operations, whose brief was to set up Merion so that nobody broke par. Nobody did. Merion is a classic course of welcome variety that has contributed more than its share of glory to America’s golfing history. One of its favourite features is a first tee right outside the locker room, its Englishness accentuated by its original name, ‘Lymah’. Matt is a huge advocate of ‘for’ and ‘fast too, as all greenkeepers recognise, he had to accept what came and deal with it.

Nevertheless, Merion was the latest example of almost obligatory course adjustment to suit current needs. Previously, in 1987, “the US Open was played with a soft ball, true temper chaffs and pessimism woods”. To that end, which is understood, one general guideline for any course set-up is encouragement of good driving, a point picked up by Paul Lawrie in Golf World recently. “The ball and the site of the driver heads have changed the game the most. The ball goes further and doesn’t move as much in the air, which isn’t a good thing. A lot of mediocres to decent players are winning a lot of money. Before, you had to be really talented to do that. The art of driving has been lost”.

On the eve of Muirfield, talk inevitably centred on iron off the tee, one leading player asking, “when you hit a 2-iron 350 yards, why take a driver?” However, a precedent for this was set in 1987 when, as the third round in terrible conditions of wind and rain, all at Merion, Sandy Lyle went round in 71 without hitting a single wooden club for any shot. 20 years on, players either couldn’t, didn’t want to or didn’t need to, take a driver - one solution for a 379 yard par four being a 7-iron and a sand wedge.

Most courses were never designed to contend with a very wet build up. It is always the mitigating factor and the size of the driver head have mattered. One general guideline for any course set-up is encouragement of good driving, a point picked up by Paul Lawrie in Golf World recently. “The ball and the site of the driver heads have changed the game the most. The ball goes further and doesn’t move as much in the air, which isn’t a good thing. A lot of mediocres to decent players are winning a lot of money. Before, you had to be really talented to do that. The art of driving has been lost.”

Donald Steel, GTC Chairman, Golf Course Architect and Golf writer, on the ongoing challenges facing greenkeepers.

It was a timely reminder of the distance the modern ball travels that Merion had a par 4 finishing hole that could have played 530 yards for the US Open in June.

Justin Rose’s glorious victory was completed with a classic drive and a shot finished at the back of a large green, Hogan’s at the front left. If the ball isn’t going any farther, as some suggest, an intriguing question is why nearly every championship and tournament course in the world has sought extra yardage to shore up its defences? Merion, one of the shorter courses in the US major championship, found itself back in favour after a spell of 23 years on the sidelines simply because it could be lengthened by 450 yards.

That in itself was some achievement although, equally remarkably, 115 of those came on three par 3s. The 3rd, 9th and 17th played 256, 236 and 246 yards, the fourth par 3, the 13th, on more than a chip and a putt. Incidentally, Merion’s two par 5s, the 4th and 628 yards, and the first four holes followed by two par 4s of 504 and 487 yards after which it was all down hill.

Well almost! For all that the layout has its five par 4s under 400 yards, nearly every hole took its prisoners.

Nevertheless, Merion’s reinstatement was a cause for rejoicing, a triumph for Matt Shaffer, Director of Golf Course Operations, whose brief was to set up Merion so that nobody broke par. Nobody did. Merion is a classic course of welcome variety that has contributed more than its share of glory to America’s golfing history. One of its favourite features is a first tee right outside the locker room, its Englishness accentuated by its original name, ‘Lymah’. Matt is a huge advocate of ‘for’ and ‘fast too, as all greenkeepers recognise, he had to accept what came and deal with it.

Nevertheless, Merion was the latest example of almost obligatory course adjustment to suit current needs. Previously, in 1987, “the US Open was played with a soft ball, true temper chaffs and pessimism woods”. To that end, which is understood, one general guideline for any course set-up is encouragement of good driving, a point picked up by Paul Lawrie in Golf World recently. “The ball and the site of the driver heads have changed the game the most. The ball goes further and doesn’t move as much in the air, which isn’t a good thing. A lot of mediocres to decent players are winning a lot of money. Before, you had to be really talented to do that. The art of driving has been lost.”

On the eve of Muirfield, talk inevitably centred on iron off the tee, one leading player asking, “when you hit a 2-iron 350 yards, why take a driver?” However, a precedent for this was set in 1987 when, as the third round in terrible conditions of wind and rain, all at Merion, Sandy Lyle went round in 71 without hitting a single wooden club for any shot. 20 years on, players either couldn’t, didn’t want to or didn’t need to, take a driver - one solution for a 379 yard par four being a 7-iron and a sand wedge.

Most courses were never designed to contend with a very wet build up. It is always the mitigating factor and the size of the driver head have mattered. One general guideline for any course set-up is encouragement of good driving, a point picked up by Paul Lawrie in Golf World recently. “The ball and the site of the driver heads have changed the game the most. The ball goes further and doesn’t move as much in the air, which isn’t a good thing. A lot of mediocres to decent players are winning a lot of money. Before, you had to be really talented to do that. The art of driving has been lost.”

 Donald Steel, GTC Chairman, Golf Course Architect and Golf writer, on the ongoing challenges facing greenkeepers.
Merion to Muirfield, who would be a Greenkeeper?

Donald Steel, GTC Chairman, Golf Course Architect and Golf writer, on the ongoing challenges facing greenkeepers

It was a timely reminder of the distance the modern ball travels that Merion had a par 4 finishing hole that could have played 530 yards for the US Open in June.

Justin Rose’s glorious victory was completed with a classic drive and 4-iron when the 18th tee was moved forward to measure 511 yards but one interesting factor was the neat comparison with an equally epic climax from the past.

Rose’s drive, blind over the hill, finished alongside the plaque marking the spot in 1950 from which Ben Hogan hit his famous 1-iron but the hole for that Open measured 448 yards, and Hogan was the best driver of his generation even though his appearance after a near fatal car crash the previous year was nothing short of miraculous.

What a contrast! For all that the 18th at Muirfield in 1970 was 450 yards, it was still a cause for rejoicing, a triumph for Matt Shaffer, Director of Golf Course Operations, whose brief was to set up Merion so that nobody broke par. Nobody did. Merion is a classic course of welcome variety that has contributed more than its share of glory to America’s golfing history. One of its favourite features is a first tee right outside the locker room, its Englishness accentuated by its original title of Merion Cricket Club in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

However, as Shaffer states, “Merion isn’t English and it isn’t American in design, it’s Merion.”

He added crucially, “there was so much at stake for this championship but the question was whether change could be made fairly and who decided? It would have been far easier to move greens but we established early on that, more than anything, we needed the integrity of Merion”. The weather was always the mitigating factor and greenkeepers everywhere will have spared a thought for Matt who had to contend with a very wet build up to his preparations and a tornado on the first morning.

By contrast, Muirfield, firm and fast, was bathed in sunshine. It is impossible not to make comparisons with Merion if only to underline that the Gods invariably have one or two tricks in reserve for a 379 yard par four being a 7-iron and a sand wedge.

Most courses were never designed to suffer some of the indignities and battle lines have to be drawn early but a particular pet hate is encroaching greens with collars of changing rough and remote pin positions that can be virtually inaccessible even from the shortest range.

Green speed also comes more into the equation, today’s sophisticated mowing machines achieving lower heights of cut, making selection of sympathetic pin positions even more problematic, particularly with varying wind strengths.

Things are rarely easy. Less than a year after the US Open, Matt, back in Merion, faced 95 degree heat and insufferable humidity.

“Merion’s reinstatement was a cause for rejoicing, a triumph for Matt Shaffer, Director of Golf Course Operations, whose brief was to set up Merion so that nobody broke par”

inflicted on them nowadays even if it is acknowledged that width of fairways and pin positions are key ingredients in course presentation.

Long ago, it was said that “with out fast greens and thick rough, Merion, for all the strategic niceties of the holes, couldn’t hope to stand up to the present professional brigade”. But narrow fairways and thick rough can curtail aggression which isn’t always what people pay to see although, happily, links golf should never respond purely to muscle power. Subtle, touch, feel and judgement are greater requirements.

When limits are exceeded on any course, it is understandable not to say impossible. Rough cannot be ordered to gain the oldest title in the game. Another happy ending for all.
Blinder Bunker Liner

It has been an exciting year for the Sunningdale based company going from strength to strength with bunker installations and receiving great feedback from course managers across the country and Europe who have been dealing with difficult conditions and still experiencing perfect conditions in their Blinder bunkers, that rake up, as if no rain has been falling.

More and more clubs are now returning for further installations of the bunker lining system that uses Environmentally approved rubber, graded to bridge with sand and mixed with a special binding agent to provide a strong flexible base able to withstand golf club strikes without damage to the liner, club or player which no other liner can boast! The liner also has incredible drainage qualities and longevity.

The launch of the new Blinder Eco path has also been an incredible success allowing bunkers to be waterproofed with a top quality product.

Blinder bunker liner and Blinder Eco path are installed by Pro Fusion Environmental a leading golf course contractor, but without the negative effects.

Rubber comes in a variety of colours that can be used alone or player which no other liner can boast! The liner also has incredible drainage qualities and longevity.

The launch of the new Blinder Eco path has also been an incredible success allowing bunkers to be waterproofed with a top quality product.

Blinder bunker liner and Blinder Eco path are installed by Pro Fusion Environmental a leading golf course contractor, but without the negative effects.

Rubber comes in a variety of colours that can be used alone or player which no other liner can boast! The liner also has incredible drainage qualities and longevity.

The launch of the new Blinder Eco path has also been an incredible success allowing bunkers to be waterproofed with a top quality product.
Blinder Bunker Liner

It has been an exciting year for the Sunningdale based company going from strength to strength with bunker installations and receiving great feedback from course managers across the country and Europe who have been dealing with difficult conditions and still experiencing perfect conditions in their blinder bunkers, that rake up, as if no rain has been falling.

More and more clubs are now returning for further installations of the bunker lining system that uses Environmentally approved rubber, graded to bridge with sand and mixed with a special binding agent to provide a strong flexible base able to withstand golf club strikes without damage to the liner, club or player which no other liner can boast! The liner also has incredible drainage qualities and longevity.

The launch of the new Blinder Eco path has also been an exciting and demand has been driven by course managers wanting a natural but hard wearing solution for pathways that blends perfectly into the environment. The coated shredded rubber comes in a variety of colours that can be used alone or in a blend. The rubber is mixed with a binding agent and forms a hard wearing, wash free path resembling wood mulch, but without the negative effects.

Blinder bunker liner and Blinder Eco path are installed by Pro Fusion Environmental a leading golf course contractor, but without the negative effects.

Golf Course Drainage
Sunny & Design / Installation / Greens / Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses
For fast and friendly Nationwide Service
Contact Melvin Taylor: 01283 551417 07885 231513 mtdownesgolf@live.co.uk
www.turfdry.com

Irrigation
The TAS TRIMMER SPECIALIST (FLUSH & SAFETY MADE EASY)
All popular sprinkler, value Bob & marker sizes
www.tastrimmer.co.uk
Tel: 01206 262676

ADVERTISE HERE
from as little as £250 for a FULL 6 MONTHS, full colour, please call Jill on 01347 833 812 or email jill@bigga.co.uk
Field Sales Manager, Scotland – Turf Products

The Scope:
Lely (UK) Ltd is the exclusive distributor in the UK and Ireland for the world leading range of Toro professional turf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems, as well as the TYM brand of tractors. Our blend of product offering is well suited to a large range of customers in the sectors of fine turf sports and grounds maintenance.

We pride ourselves on offering an exceptionally high standard of pre-sale and after sales back up for all of the products we distribute.

The Role:
The Turf division is looking to recruit a Field Sales Manager, based in Scotland, to support the sales team in promoting and selling our turf maintenance equipment brands to end user customers including all sports, local authority and landscape contractors as well as other amenity grounds maintenance providers.

Reporting to the Regional Manager successful candidates will have a proven track record in negotiation skills and selling to end user customers, ideally in the golf sector as well as in sports fields, local authority and landscapers.

Candidates will be highly motivated professionals with a pro-active approach and who enjoy working as part of a team. You will need to display good oral and written communication skills and be able to create and maintain strong working relationships at all levels.

Good time management and presentation and reporting skills using Microsoft packages are essential.

This position carries a full remuneration and benefits package including a company vehicle.

If this challenge appeals to you and you feel you have the necessary experience and qualities to take on this role you should apply in writing providing a full CV including current earnings to:

Sharon Saunders, HR Department, Lely (UK) Limited, 1 Station Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1QH

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. Closing Date for applications is 31st August 2013.
Recruitment

Field Sales Manager, Scotland – Turf Products

The Scope:
Lely (UK) Ltd is the exclusive distributor in the UK and Ireland for the world leading range of Toro professional turf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems, as well as the TYM brand of tractors. Our blend of product offering is well suited to a large range of customers in the sectors of ‘fine turf’ sports and grounds maintenance.

We pride ourselves on offering an exceptionally high standard of pre-sale and after sales back up for all of the products we distribute.

The Role:
The Turf division is looking to recruit a Field Sales Manager, based in Scotland, to support the sales team in promoting and selling our turf maintenance equipment brands to end user customers including all sports, local authority and landscape contractors as well as other amenity grounds maintenance providers.

Reporting to the Regional Manager successful candidates will have a proven track record in negotiation skills and selling to end user customers, ideally in the golf sector as well as in sports fields, local authority and landscapers.

Candidates will be highly motivated professionals with a pro-active approach and who enjoy working as part of a team. You will need to display good oral and written communication skills and be able to create and maintain strong working relationships at all levels.

Good time management and presentation and reporting skills using Microsoft packages are essential.

This position carries a full remuneration and benefits package including a company vehicle.

If this challenge appeals to you and you feel you have the necessary experience and qualities to take on this role you should apply in writing providing a full CV including current earnings to:
Sharon Saunders, HR Department, Lely (UK) Limited, 1 Station Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1QH

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. Closing Date for applications is 31st August 2013.

BIGGA Seminars at SALTEx 2013

Wednesday 4 September 2013

BIGGA is delighted to have once again, been invited by the IOG to present a series of seminars at SALTEx 2013.

10.15 am – 11.15 pm
Greens Drainage - Mission Possible
A workable solution - Transforming root based greens with Deep Thatch and Black Layer at Robin Hood Golf Club. Discover the methods used and the solution to draining troublesome greens.
Presented by Andy Wood, Course Manager, Robin Hood GC.

11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Sand Traps and Money Pits
This session will look at managing and constructing golf course bunkers on limited budgets, whilst revisiting the past to shape our future. It will also include the art of compost creation and its role in modern traditional greenkeeping.
Presented by Stuart Yarwood MG, Golf Course Manager, Lymm Golf Club.

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm
Go in Green…..Come out Clean
Winter disease on golf greens is particularly problematic since there is little turf growth to allow recovery and for scars to heal. This can impact the playability of greens right through into the spring period leading to the dissatisfaction of golfers. An integrated approach to disease management can reduce the disease pressure, improve turf health and enhance the performance of fungicide applications. New findings on disease management will be presented along with practical advice on how to deliver smooth, disease free greens right through the high risk autumn and winter periods.
Presented by Dr Simon Watson, Syngenta Technical Manager, EAME Turf and Landscape.

BIGGA CPD Credits
1 CPD credit is available for each seminar.
A CPD register will be available at the end of each seminar.

Advertise your recruitment here ... and online for one month at www.bigga.org.uk/careers from £575+VAT for an 1/8 advert
Contact Jill Rodham on 01347 833 812
The Back Nine

A column for writers and members to air and share their views on golf greenkeeping topics

Sean Sullivan, Golf Course Superintendent at The Briarwood Golf Course in Montana, USA, marked his Open Support Team debut last year by having the tournament's logo tattooed on his arm! Here he tells us how the bulletin boards and BIGGA members' superb hospitality set him up for Muirfield.

For me, my Open experience begins before I even apply for the Support Team. This year our annual members’ meeting was the same week I was told I had been selected, so I had the opportunity to explain to the membership the honour, for me, and the benefits for them, and also ensure my time in the UK would not clash with any tournaments at Briarwood.

From March to July I was on the course working every day just to have the privilege of working the Open. I wanted to experience Scotland as booked a flight for Friday 12 July – nearly a week before the tournament started properly. I was “shooting from the hip” – other than the team’s official accommodation in Edinburgh I had not booked any hotels. But through a thread I started on BIGGA bulletin boards, several greenkeepers had made very kind offers of accommodation. This shows again what a great industry we are involved in.

Once in Edinburgh I got on a train and headed for Dunblane. I called Chris Pearson, Course Manager of Dunblane New GC, to let him know I was in town. Chris took me on a tour of the golf course, which was in great shape. As it was too hot for a round of golf, he gathered up his family and we went for a drive to St Andrews. You can never go wrong with a trip to St Andrews! We walked the Old Course watching the golfers and helping to locate errant shots while his family enjoyed the beach.

I then headed to Dundee, but because of poor planning on my part, I missed out on another course tour and decided to head towards Inverness. While changing trains in Perth, I actually ran into someone I knew – Lee Strutt was on his way to Inverness, to help Chris Haspell at Castle Stuart for the Scottish Open. It was good to catch up with him and enjoy the journey through the Scottish countryside, and he gave me tips on places to stay that night.

The next day I met Iain Macleod, from Tain Golf Club, and I played my first round of golf in the UK at Tain. I’m going to claim a lack of course knowledge, jet lag, and borrowed clubs for the poor display of golf that Iain had to witness but I had a great time, despite the high score. Iain was kind enough to put me up at his house for the night and the next day we were off to Castle Stuart for the last day of the Scottish Open.

While walking around the course, we happened upon several greenkeepers, who I had only known from the BIGGA forum. It was great to meet them in person and put a face to the names. Thanks to Andy Campbell and Jacobson for providing me with a ticket, to see the venue and have lunch with other greenkeepers. These types of opportunities are unbelievable considering the distance between Montanas and Scotland.

Later that day I met Andy again and headed back to St Andrews, and he and his family were generous enough to offer me a place to stay at their house. Although a busy man, as were the others who took me around, he made sure I visited The Duke’s Course Golf Club, with Derek Robson, and Carnoustie, where we ran into Craig Boath. Two more names that I was able to put faces to. I was dropped off at the Leuchars train station and headed back to Edinburgh to meet the whole Open Support Team.

Several greenkeepers had made very kind offers of accommodation

about the author

Sean Sullivan is Golf Course Superintendent at The Briarwood Golf Course in Montana in Western USA. It is known for its tree-covered fairways and open rangeland, and is particularly notable for its Back Nine. Sean has added many personal touches such as painting the flags of the club’s ball washers, and has been a member of BIGGA’s Open Support Team now twice.

Next month

Will Sean’s Muirfield experience be memorable enough to justify another tattoo? Will he be able to cram all his adventures into one we are involved in?

Will he be able to cram all his adventures into one story? And how will he cope with 48 hours without sleep during his marathon journey home? Find out in G1 September...

The views expressed within this column are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International

NEW FOR 2013—THE BARONESS LM315 TRIPLEX GRIENSMOWER

More than 100 years of experience goes into the making of Baroness products, giving unrivalled cutting quality and the very lowest running costs.

For more than 20 years Baroness has been building the LM15 with our very own ‘hybrid’ drive system which minimises the amount of hydraulic lines by using cable drive to the cutting units.

Now available with a 21hp 3-cylinder diesel engine and offering industry leading light weight combined with outstanding traction, the Baroness LM315 is now available to view on your golf course.
The Back Nine

A column for writers and members to air and share their views on golf greenkeeping topics

Sean Sullivan, Golf Course Superintendent at The Briarwood Golf Course in Montana, USA, marked his Open Support Team debut last year by having the tournament’s logo tattooed on his arm! Here he tells us how the bulletin boards and BIGGA members’ superb hospitality set him up for Muirfield.

For me, my Open experience begins before I even apply for the Support Team. This year our annual members’ meeting was the same week I was told I had been selected, so I had the opportunity to explain to the membership the honour, for me, and the benefits for them, and also ensure my time in the UK would not clash with any tournaments at Briarwood.

From March to July I was on the course working every day just to have the privilege of watching the Open. I wanted to experience Scotland so booked a flight for Friday 12 July – nearly a week before the tournament started properly. I was “shooting from the hip” – other than the team’s official accommodation in Edinburgh I had not booked any hotels. But through a thread I started on BIGGA bulletin boards, several greenkeepers had made very kind offers of accommodation. This shows again what a great industry we are involved in.

Once in Edinburgh I got on a train and headed for Dunblane. I called Chris Pearson, Course Manager of Dunblane New GC, to let him know I was in town. Chris took me on a tour of the golf course, which was in great shape. As it was too hot for a round of golf, he gathered up his family and we went for a drive to St Andrews. You can never go wrong with a trip to St Andrews! We walked the Old Course watching the golfers and helping to locate errant shots while his family enjoyed the beach. I then headed to Dundee, but because of poor planning on my part, I missed out on another course tour and decided to head towards Inverness.

While changing trains in Perth, I actually ran into someone I knew – Lee Strutt was on his way to Inverness, to help Chris Haasped at Castle Stuart for the Scottish Open. It was good to catch up with him and enjoy the journey through the Scottish countryside, and he gave me tips on places to stay that night.

The next day I met Iain Macleod, from Tain Golf Club, and I played my first round of golf in the UK at Tain. I’m going to claim a lack of course knowledge, jet lag, and borrowed clubs for the poor display of golf that Iain had to witness but I had a great time, despite the high score. Iain was kind enough to put me up at his house for the night and the next day we were off to Castle Stuart for the last day of the Scottish Open.

While walking around the course, we happened upon several greenkeepers, who I had only known from the BIGGA forum. It was great to meet them in person and put a face to the names. Thanks to Andy Campbell and Jacobsen for providing me with a ticket, to see the venue and have lunch with other greenkeepers. These types of opportunities are unbelievable considering the distance between Montana and Scotland.

Later that day I met Andy again and headed back to St Andrews, and he and his family were generous enough to offer me a place to stay at their house. Although a busy man, as were the others who took me around,

Several greenkeepers had made very kind offers of accommodation.

about the author

Sean Sullivan in Golf Course Superintendent Sean Sullivan at Briarwood GC in Montana, USA. He made sure I visited The Duke’s Course Golf Club, with Derek Robson, and Carnoustie, where we ran into Craig Boath. Two more names that I was able to put faces to. I was dropped off at the Leuchars train station and headed back to Edinburgh to meet the whole Open Support Team.

Next month

Will Sean’s Muirfield experience be memorable enough to justify another tattoo? Will he be able to cram all his souvenirs into his case? And how will he cope with 48 hours without sleep during his marathon journey home?

Visit www.baronessuk.com for more posts! BTME: 2013 at Harrogate saw the Baroness stand busy over all three days with the LM315 being a real focus of attention for all visitors!
Global Turf UK

Quality Assured – Inspection and service for added value and peace of mind

Global Turf the World’s largest supplier of quality pre-owned turf equipment has now located its European headquarters in the UK.

It’s never been easier to purchase late-model, CE Certified turf equipment that can save you thousands.

Sandbeck Lane, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 7TW, United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)1937 581111
Email: info@globalturfequipment.co.uk

www.globalturfequipment.co.uk

SALTEX
SEE US ON
STAND L35