Men of Harlech

Greenkeeping past, present and future at Royal St David’s Golf Club
As 2013 draws to a close and we look forward to a bumper BTME next month there seem to be some genuine signs for optimism in the industry. After a couple of terrible years of weather 2013 was much more like it, courses have been in great condition and remain so going into winter and this has led to a substantial increase in rounds played.

The more switched on golf clubs will have converted those extra rounds into increased revenue which has to be good news for all of us. There are still some serious challenges out there though with golf club memberships appearing to still be in decline. Golf clubs are being forced to adapt and as with anything in life those that adapt the quickest are finding themselves ahead of the curve. It is in some ways extraordinary that in an innovative sport like golf the core business model of the member golf club has remained seemingly untouched for generations. Our members have been adapting to changes seemingly untouched for generations. Our member golf club has remained seemingly untouched for generations. Our member golf club has remained seemingly untouched for generations. Our member golf club has remained seemingly untouched for generations. Our member golf club has remained seemingly untouched for generations.

There are just a few short weeks to go until thousands of greenkeepers descend on Harrogate for BTME. Bookings for the Continue to Learn programme are substantially up at the time of writing so I say unapologetically “book now to avoid disappointment!” I look forward to seeing you there.

Our cover story for this month is the remarkable tale of the twin brothers who have lovingly cared for the historic links at Harlech, Royal St Davids, for over 30 years. There has been a labour of love that, to continue this column’s theme of adaptability, has seen them embrace change in a bid to provide a consistent enjoyable experience on a world class course.
The winner of the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition 2013 is Joe Dormer, Assistant Greenkeeper at West Sussex Golf Club, with this fantastic picture looking over a pond at the club's 14th hole.

Joe has always been keen on photography and borrowed a friend's camera to take the winning shot on his day off, early on a frosty morning in April.

Joe said: “I’m so chuffed to win the overall competition, I really am over the moon. I used a Lumix G2 DSLR which I borrowed from friend and Sheriff rep Adam Hartley.

“I noticed the potential for a great early morning shot previously, that corner of the course is in a beautiful area, abundant in wildlife in a natural heathland setting. Usually when I’m mowing greens this area is the last place you get to at around 9:30-10am so I dragged myself out of bed on my day off to get this picture at 7am. West Sussex is such a picturesque course and aged in a way by Course Manager Ian Streeter that compliments its beauty.”

Runner-up was Gareth Roberts, Course Manager at Hankley Common, with his colourful shot of the 11th tee at his club. Greg Fitzmaurice, Head Greenkeeper at Hunley Hall Golf Club, was third with a striking cliffside image taken on his course.

Thanks to all BIGGA members who entered the competition – the next best nine entries are included in your calendar in this month’s magazine. The top 12 were chosen by professional photographers Eric Hepworth and Alan Birch plus a judging panel at BIGGA House.

Joe wins a framed print of his shot, and a framed print from Eric’s wide range of golf course photography which you can see for yourself at http://www.hepworthphotography.com. Gareth and Greg win a print from Eric’s collection.
The winner of the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition 2013 is Joe Dormer, Assistant Greenkeeper at West Sussex Golf Club, with this fantastic picture looking over a pond at the club’s 14th hole.

Joe has always been keen on photography and borrowed a friend’s camera to take the winning shot on his day off, early on a frosty morning in April.

Joe said: “I’m so chuffed to win the overall competition, I really am over the moon. I used a Lumix G2 DSLR which I borrowed from friend and Sheriff rep Adam Hartley. “I noticed the potential for a great early morning shot previously, that corner of the course is in a beautiful area, abundant in wildlife in a natural heathland setting. Usually when I’m mowing greens this area is the last place you get to at around 9:30-10am so I dragged myself out of bed on my day off to get this picture at 7am. West Sussex is such a picturesque course and is managed in a way by Course Manager Ian Streeter that compliments its beauty.”

Runner-up was Gareth Roberts, Course Manager at Hankley Common, with his colourful shot of the 11th tee at his club. Greg Fitzmaurice, Head Greenkeeper at Hunley Hall Golf Club, was third with a striking cliffside image taken on his course.

Thanks to all BIGGA members who entered the competition – the next best nine entries are included in your calendar in this month’s magazine. The top 12 were chosen by professional photographers Eric Hepworth and Alan Birch plus a judging panel at BIGGA House.

Joe wins a framed print of his shot, and a framed print from Eric’s wide range of golf course photography which you can see for yourself at http://www.hepworthphotography.com. Gareth and Greg win a print from Eric’s collection.
I feel that November seems to be one of the busiest months for BIGGA members on and off the course and it’s certainly been a fast and frenetic month for me.

The highlight for me was the Regional Conferences and I’d firstly like to thank our four Regional Administrators for their tireless work in attracting superb line-ups of speakers and for publicising all four of the events so well.

I’d also like to extend my thanks to the sponsors who supported each Conference, your backing is more crucial than ever.

I was delighted to see so many members in attendance and I’m sure you all gained plenty of knowledge and insight to take with you – I know I did.

It was the perfect opportunity for me to chat with members and discover what makes them tick, and hear news, problems and solutions from greenskeepers from the length and breadth of the UK.

The passion and enthusiasm you have for your jobs is superb and a credit to the industry.

I don’t think it’s unfair to say that this time last year, things in this industry were a little depressed, the weather and the economy had got everyone down a bit, but I really feel this has lifted and we can look forward with optimism.

With the Regional Conferences over, the focus more than ever switches to BTME 2014.

With a sold-out exhibition and bookings pouring in for our Continue to Learn education programme, the excitement is building – not just within our Association but also the industry as a whole.

Everyone looks forward to Harrogate to kickstart their year.

I’d like to highlight the Turf Managers’ Conference in my column this month. This really is an unrivalled educational, networking and development opportunity.

There’s also our first Welcome Celebration to look forward to straight after the exhibition on the Tuesday, featuring what’s sure to be a superb speech from Peter Alliss – and it’s free to all BIGGA members and BTME visitors.

I could go on for pages and pages about why you should attend BTME – if you haven’t done so already, start making your travel and accommodation plans for Harrogate now.

However, I’ve been fortunate enough to be Chairman for 18 months and I intend to put all my energy into the remaining couple of months of my tenure.

I’d like to wish all members and everyone in the wider turf industry a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you’re all surviving the onset of winter, and that the weather isn’t too bleak during the next few months.

Tony

Looking forward to 2014

“The Turf Managers’ Conference really is an unrivalled educational, networking and development opportunity”
I feel that November seems to be one of the busiest months for BIGGA members on and off the course and it’s certainly been a fast and frenetic month for me.

The highlight for me was the Regional Conferences and I’d firstly like to thank our four Regional Administrators for their tireless work in attracting superb line-ups of speakers and for publicising all four of the events so well.

I’d also like to extend my thanks to the sponsors who supported each Conference, your backing is more crucial than ever.

I was delighted to see so many members in attendance and I’m sure you all gained plenty of knowledge and insight to take with you – I know I did.

It was the perfect opportunity for me to chat with members and discover what makes them tick, and hear news, problems and solutions from greenkeepers from the length and breadth of the UK.

The passion and enthusiasm you have for your jobs is superb and a credit to the industry.

I don’t think it’s unfair to say that this time last year, things in this industry were a little depressed, the weather and the economy had got everyone down a bit, but I really feel this has lifted and we can look forward with optimism.

With the Regional Conferences over, the focus more than ever switches to BTME 2014.

With a sold-out exhibition and bookings pouring in for our Continue to Learn education programme, the excitement is building – not just within our Association but also the industry as a whole.

Everyone looks forward to Harrogate to kickstart their year.

I’d like to highlight the Turf Managers’ Conference in my column this month. This really is an unrivalled educational, networking and development opportunity.

There’s also our first Welcome Celebration to look forward to straight after the exhibition on the Tuesday, featuring what’s sure to be a superb speech from Peter Alliss – and it’s free to all BIGGA members and BTME visitors.

I could go on for pages and pages about why you should attend BTME – if you haven’t done so already, start making your travel and accommodation plans for Harrogate now.

However, I’ve been fortunate enough to be Chairman for 18 months and I intend to put all my energy into the remaining couple of months of my tenure. I’d like to wish all members and everyone in the wider turf industry a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you’re all surviving the onset of winter, and that the weather isn’t too bleak during the next few months.

Tony

Looking forward to 2014

“The Turf Managers’ Conference really is an unrivalled educational, networking and development opportunity”
DECEMBER 2013
@BIGGA

John Young on 07776 242120 or Scotland Regional Administrator – for further details please contact Regional Conference is on March 4 well so far – and of course, CPD Green showcased the new CPD of the country.

Robertson presented to hundreds Lowe, Steve Chappell and Dougie Strutt MG, Jason Brooks, Paul greenkeeper education with a huge presentations.

proper to BTME with some which kicked off the countdown Regional Conferences in November of delegates the length and breadth of the country. The four Conferences again reinforced BIGGA’s commitment to greenkeeper education with a huge range of presenters. The likes of Henry Bechelet, Lee Strutt MG, Jacon Brooks, Paul Lowe, Steve Chappell and Dougie Robertson presented to hundreds of delegates the length and breadth of the country.

There were also a series of breakout sessions, and Stuart Green showcased the new CPD software which has gone down so well so far – and of course, CPD credits are available if you attended the conferences.

Don’t forget the Scottish Regional Conference is on March 4 – for further details please contact Scotland Regional Administrator John Young on 07776 242120 or joheyoun@bigga.co.uk.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES HIT THE ROAD

JIMMY HAYES

Everyone at BIGGA was saddened to hear of the death of Jimmy Hayes, former greenkeeper at several clubs in the North East and BIGGA member for many years. He was Head Greenkeeper at Gosforth Golf Club having also worked at The Northumberland Golf Club, Parklands Golf Club and Walkerd.

He was an extremely talented amateur golfer and was club champion at Gosforth an amazing 19 times. BIGGA’s former North East Section Secretary, Jimmy Richardson paid a warm tribute to Jimmy. He said: “He was the people’s champion in golf and was generally recognized as one of the best players never to be capped by England. He very rarely played in national tournaments as he was a man of modest means but he was a star among stars. He represented Northumberland at county level winning around 200 caps during the 30 years he played county golf.

He also won a notable national amateur tournament of his era, The Golf Illustrated Gold Vase, and the Scottish Seniors Amateur Open in 1988. He lived in Benton Burn for most of his life. He leaves a widow, Janet, a daughter Sandra, a grand-daughter and a great-grandson.
A new App has been developed that could revolutionise the chemical spraying of agricultural and leisure land. Turf Caddy, devised by Ben Blampied-Smyth, Course Manager at Royal Jersey Golf Club, will help users meet legal obligations whilst also helping to alleviate environmental concerns.

Turf Caddy is designed to allow quick and easy calibration of Fungicides, Pesticides, Herbicides and Liquid Fertilizers used in all areas of Turf Management whether on Golf Courses, Sports Grounds or Land Management.

It calibrates the amount of chemical required for various types of spraying equipment over a given area as well as plotting the areas sprayed via GPS and allowing a spraying record to be created for reference. Turf Caddy allows users to electronically track their spraying as they work; it also helps to extend the shelf life of expensive products and allows for better budgeting.

Ben qualified with a Turf Science and Golf Course Management degree in 2009 and became Head Greenkeeper at the Royal Jersey Golf Course in 2011.

The birth of this app and also of his blog, which has now had over 17,000 viewings and a large following online, are both tools Ben is using to help streamline his role to be more efficient, compliant and informative.

Ben said, “There has always been a lot of misuse of Pesticides, Herbicides and Fungicides. The main issue is measurement with them being put down either too weak or too strong. Apart from the performance and environmental considerations, the products are also very expensive so it’s vital for users to find a way to monitor and use them effectively.

Originally I just designed Turf Caddy for Greenkeepers but it soon became apparent that it was also applicable to managers of agricultural land and sports fields and also owners of large gardens. The interest in the App has been quite phenomenal.

“With Turf Caddy it feels like we’re moving the industry into a new era.”

Requirements: Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch and iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later. Cost: £4.99 Android version. Available from Amazon Android and iTunes.

Requirements: Compatible with Android 2.2 and above. Requires GPS.

The App is also calibrated for the US market.

For more information please visit: turfco.co.uk. Ben’s Blog: royaljersey.getrefined.com

**Congratulations to Jon Barr, Head Greenkeeper at Lutterworth Golf Club, who has become our latest Master Greenkeeper.

Jon began his studies for the certificate seven years ago and passed the exams earlier this year, becoming the 63rd BIGGA member to achieve Master Greenkeeper status. He said: “I’m really pleased. I’m most pleased that I wasn’t here to sit the exams again! They were the first exams I’ve sat in about 20 years so it was daunting, but I put a lot of work in.”

“I did it for my own career and development. “Having the Master Greenkeeper certificate puts you in a great position if you want to further your career.”

Turn to page 38 for much more on Master Greenkeeper.

**STEWART CLAYTON

Last month saw the passing of Stewart Clayton, MC of Greensman and well-known face in the greenkeeping industry. Alan White, who owns Greensman, paid this tribute.

“Stewart passed away in the company of his devoted younger sister, Lorna, after battling a brain tumour for some time. He was an accomplished sportsman who became involved with hockey, representing England.

“Stewart became Stewart’s greatest passion, he was the driving force behind The Bramham Lions Golf Society for almost thirty years and was a member of Scarcroft GC for almost as long. Stewart passed away in 2002. Stewart quickly developed his East Anglian territory and was always involved in the greenkeeping industry. Stewart was a genuine, and always be supportive, warm and genuine, and always be...
SLALEY HALL’S STEVE CRAM WINS AWARD

Congratulations to BIGGA Member Steve Cram, Golf Course & Estate Manager at De Vere Slaley Hall, who was awarded ‘Greenkeeper of the Year’ at the annual Pro Shop Europe Awards. Steve has received a wealth of praise throughout the year for his sterling work in preparing the Hunting course at De Vere Slaley Hall to such a fantastic standard for the 40th anniversary of the PGA Cup.

Steve has been a long-standing member of the team at De Vere Slaley Hall and has been integral in developing the North East resort’s reputation as one of the UK’s premier golfing destinations and tournament venues.

As well as maintaining a championship standard of golf course through challenging weather conditions all year round, he’s overseen six European Tour and 13 European Senior Tour events at the Northumberland resort. The team implemented a strenuous programme of course and drainage improvements over the winter months, and this paid dividend throughout the peak season, culminating in the 26th hosting of PGA Cup matches.

Steve said: “I was really pleased and humbled to win – to be honest I was surprised to even be nominated. The award is more for all the team here who have worked so hard over the last few years.

“I feel the greenkeeping team is now a tighter ship and more efficient than it’s ever been, and the whole golf operation deserves credit. We came into March and April this year facing a real challenge – we had snow on the ground for two weeks in April. But since then we’ve been – it was a great summer. We did have two or three spells of really heavy rain, but we’d done lots of work on our drainage in preparation for those conditions. So, the next day we would be fully open with no compromise for our members and visitors.”

Keith Pickard, Regional Golf Director at De Vere, said: “Steve is a credit to his profession, a true leader who loves his trade and has a fantastic ability to galvanise and motivate his team of green staff. His passion and pride inspires his team to put in the extra hours to ensure everything is perfectly prepared, and he stands as a role model for heads of departments across the whole De Vere Group. The award is richly deserved.”

A KNIGHT’S TALE

Hydroturf International welcomes Gareth Knight as their newest addition to the Dubai Head Office – a familiar face to many at BIGGA. Gareth’s new role of Commercial Sales Manager sees him managing the UAE, Oman & Bahrain for products such as Toro, TruTurf, Bernard, and others.

Gareth previously worked as Estates Manager at Trefloyne G.C. He was also Secretary of BIGGA South Wales and BIGGA Regional Vice Chairman.
A succession of alien insect pests and diseases have entered the UK over the last decade almost entirely via other EU nations, and by taking advantage of inter-EU ‘free trade’ accompanied by no quarantine measures worthy of that name. Heaven knows why the government publicly took on Chalara ash dieback disease caused by the fungus Chalara fraxinea.

This is a spore spread pathogen causing internal vascular wilt disease in one of the UK’s most frequently occurring and ubiquitous trees (common ash – Fraxinus excelsior). Once in the UK it was beyond eradication, here to stay and with the fate of common ash in its hands.

Chalara fraxinea is highly host specific and has so far only been found infecting members of the Fraxinus genus. A number of Fraxinus species of European, Asian and North American origin are planted in the UK as ornamental ash trees but Fraxinus excelsior is the only native Fraxinus species.

Other alien diseases in this country here for much longer, with a much broader host range and the capacity to wipe out a whole range of trees and shrubs important to the amenity, landscape and forestry sectors. Greenkeepers may remember Phytophthora ramorum which was dubbed ‘Sudden Oak Death’ because a strain of the fungus-like pathogen was ripping through native North American oaks and tan oaks in California and neighbouring West Coast States. First identification of Phytophthora ramorum on a mature tree in the UK was in November 2003 on a 100-year-old North American red oak (Quercus falcata) in Sussex.

Ironically the two genetic lineages (strains) of Phytophthora ramorum now causing havoc in the UK did not arrive from North America. They are European strains which slipped in through the EU ‘back door’, probably on Viburnum imported from the Netherlands or Germany. Everyone thought Phytophthora ramorum would decimate English oaks but they have proved to be much more resilient than their North American counterparts, probably due to the extraordinary thick bark. However, Phytophthora ramorum was soon found on a number of UK broad-leaf trees including common beech, southern beech, sycamore, holm oak and sweet chestnut though mercifully only relatively small numbers have been involved. Last count showed Phytophthora ramorum infecting 130 species across 75 genera in no less than 37 plant families. This host range includes many popular shrubs and ground cover plants including Rhododendron, Viburnum, Pieris, Syringa, Camellia and Vaccinium (e.g. bilberry).

The real damage subsequently caused by Phytophthora ramorum is on-going in commercial forestry. The pathogen has found wild Rhododendron ponticum foliage to be the ideal template for infection, disease development and spore production. From there the pathogen has proceeded to scythe through Japanese larch (Larix kaempferi) and has essentially destroyed this conifer as one of UK forestry’s premium softwood timber trees.

Many greenkeepers are probably unaware of these developments but those who manage golf courses in western England (Devon, Cornwall, Forest of Dean and Lancashire) in Wales, western Scotland and Northern Ireland where this moisture-loving pathogen and disease is rife will be only too well aware. Many thousands of hectares of Japanese larch have already been felled either because the trees were infected or as a precaution against further spread of established infections nearby.

Dr Terry Mabbett

---

**PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM IS THE REAL ENEMY WITHIN**
The Turf Managers’ Conference 2014 is at The Crown Hotel in Harrogate on Monday 20 January 2014 featuring cutting edge presentations, seminars and debates full of critically important information for you as a delegate to take with you in your career.

You will spend a day in a room full of your peers from across the UK, Europe and the world allowing you a day of unrivalled networking and the opportunity to chat with greenkeepers from all manner of courses.

For BIGGA members it costs just £105 plus VAT for a truly unrivalled day of insight which is essential to equip you with the tools you need to succeed in your future career.

For 2014, the Conference will be kicked off by Dr Karl Danneberger, Professor of Turfgrass Science at Ohio State University. As you will have seen in last month’s Greenkeeper International in his article focusing on pigments and photoprotectants in turfgrass, Karl is an expert in turfgrass ecology and physiology and has received numerous awards for his work.

He will be discussing the research he’s undertaken across the world and will be informing you how turfgrass plants respond to low light conditions.

Next up is Tammy Ball, Change Leader at ‘Coaching by the Balls’. American-born Tammy has been a change leadership specialist for 15 years, and she will be introducing the concept of Change Management as well as offering practical advice and proven methods for effectively communicating change in the workplace.

Third speaker is Karl Morris, Managing Director at The Mind Factor. Karl is one of Europe’s leading performance coaches and will be introducing his practical approach to performance coaching that understands the role of the mind and how to get the very best out of yourself and others.

Junier Brown, Senior Advisor in Environment and Business at the Environment Agency follows with a look at the water resource challenges we all face, how to manage these finite resources and will ask whether the country is facing a water resources ‘Rubicon’.

Final speaker is the popular Mark Hunt, Technical Director at Headland Amenity. Mark’s weekly weather blog which looks at our changeable climate from an agronomic perspective is a firm favourite in the greenkeeping industry.

His presentation will focus on GDD data how it can be used to make management decisions.

As if that wasn’t enough, take a look at what just two previous delegates have to say about the event.

“After being a delegate at the last three Turf Managers’ Conferences, I have no hesitation in recommending the event to all within the industry.

The speakers are highly experienced in a wide variation of fields from turf experts, man management to club politics, all of which are playing a bigger and bigger role in our day to day job.

I believe that the attendance of American speakers in recent years just highlights the popularity and expertise that this Conference carries. It is a must for me every year at Harrogate and I always wait in anticipation for the guest speakers to be announced- I have yet to be disappointed.”

Dan McGrath, Course Manager, North Foreland Golf Club.

“The key thing for me is that it does not just focus on agronomy. I’ve been to the last three and I’ve seen excellent seminars on presentation skills, interview techniques and management advice. It’s a really good mix of subjects.

The important point is there seems to be a misconception that it’s just for Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and Deputies. But any greenkeeper keen to advance their career will gain so much from attending the Turf Managers Conference.”

John McLoughlin, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Grange Park Golf Club.

Book your spot at www.bigga.org.uk, www.btme.org.uk or contact the L&D team at BIGGA House
The Turf Managers’ Conference 2014
is at The Crown Hotel in Harrogate on
Monday 20 January 2014 featuring
cutting edge presentations, seminars
and debates full of critically
important information for you as
a delegate to take with you in your
career.

You will spend a day in a room full of
your peers from across the UK, Europe and
the world allowing you a day of unrivalled
networking and the opportunity to chat
with greenkeepers from all manner of
courses.

For BIGGA members it costs just £105
plus VAT for a truly unrivalled day of
insight which is essential to equip you with
the tools you need to succeed in your future
career.

For 2014, the Conference will be
kicked off by Dr Karl Danneberger,
Professor of Turfgrass Science at Ohio
State University. As you will have seen in
last month’s Greenkeeper International
in his article focusing on pigments and
photoprotectants in turfgrass, Karl is an
expert in turfgrass ecology and physiology
and has received numerous awards for his
work.

He will be discussing the research he’s
undertaken across the world and will
be informing you how turfgrass plants
respond to low light conditions.

Next up is Tammy Ball, Change Leader
at ‘Coaching by the Balls’. American-born
Tammy has been a change leadership
specialist for 15 years, and she will
be introducing the concept of Change
Management as well as offering practical
advice and proven methods for effectively
communicating change in the workplace.

Third speaker is Karl Morris, Managing
Director at The Mind Factor. Karl is one of
Europe’s leading performance coaches and
will be introducing his practical
approach to performance coaching that
understands the role of the mind and how
to get the very best out of yourself and
others.

Junier Brown, Senior Advisor in
Environment and Business at the
Environment Agency follows with a look at
the water resource challenges we all face,
how to manage these finite resources and
will ask whether the country is facing a
water resources ‘Rubicon’.

Final speaker is the popular Mark Hunt,
Technical Director at Headland Amenity.
Mark’s weekly weather blog which looks at
our changeable climate from an agronomic
perspective is a firm favourite in the
greenkeeping industry.

His presentation will focus on GDD data
how it can be used to make management
decisions.

As if that wasn’t enough, take a look at
what just two previous delegates have to
say about the event..

“After being a delegate at the last three
Turf Managers’ Conferences, I have no
hesitation in recommending the event to all
within the industry.

“The speakers are highly experienced in
a wide variation of fields from turf experts,
man management to club politics, all of
which are playing a bigger and bigger role
in our day to day job.

“I believe that the attendance of
American speakers in recent years just
highlights the popularity and expertise that
this Conference carries. It is a must for me
every year at Harrogate and I always wait in
anticipation for the guest speakers to
be announced. I have yet to be
disappointed.”

Dan McGrath, Course Manager, North
Foreland Golf Club.

“The key thing for me is that it does not
just focus on agronomy. I’ve been to the last
three and I’ve seen excellent seminars on
presentation skills, interview techniques
and management advice. It’s a really good
mix of subjects.

“The important point is there seems
to be a misconception that it’s just for
Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and
Deputies. But any greenkeeper keen to
advance their career will gain so much
from attending the Turf Managers
Conference.”

John McLoughlin, Deputy Head
Greenkeeper, Grange Park Golf Club.
BIGGA ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH BARONESS

BIGGA are pleased to announce a new partnership with Baroness which will enhance the Association’s commitment to the continuing education of greenkeepers.

The first of the Association’s new client deals will see Baroness, which have been producing specialist grass-cutting machinery for almost 50 years, back a scholarship scheme which will help BIGGA members gain their technical and supervisory qualifications.

Under the terms of the agreement, Baroness will support BIGGA members who cannot access funding for their NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf qualification. If the member meets the required criteria they will receive 50% of their course fees up to a maximum of £1,000.

BIGGA’s Learning & Development Manager Sami Strutt said: “We’re excited about this partnership which further supports our ever increasing focus on education.

“NVQ Level 3 is a critical level for greenkeepers looking to progress to a supervisory role, and we’re proud to be able to offer support to these greenkeepers who are clearly fully committed to achieving the best in their careers.

“We’re very pleased that Baroness are supporting this initiative and look forward to helping many greenkeepers access this demanding yet hugely rewarding and beneficial qualification.”

Baroness is the brand name for the Kyoeisha Corporation of Japan, who currently offer a wide range of mowers from hand-pushed to self-propelled walk and rider machines.

Baroness is the market leader in Japan and are continuing to expand worldwide, particularly in the USA and Europe. They have been a firm supporter of BTME in recent years and have increased their stand space for the 2014 exhibition.

Managing Director Ian Kerry (above) said: “Baroness is very pleased to be working as partners with BIGGA.

“We hope that, especially through our support of the Level 3 Scholarship programme, we can help those in the greenkeeping profession who want to attain a level of competency through personal development that will help them throughout their careers. We are looking forward to a long and fruitful partnership as we continue to push forward with Baroness in the UK.”

You can check out Baroness’s latest machines and meet the team on Stand H78 at BTME.

ASHLEY PRESSES ON WITH SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Ashley Allpress who is the latest recipient of a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship supported by Jacobsen, worth £1,000.

Ashley is Deputy Course Manager at West Sussex Golf Club, and will attend Merrist Wood College to study NVQ Level 4 in Sports Turf Management.

Contact Details

L&D Executive
Rachael Duffy
rachael@bigga.co.uk

L&D News Editor
Sami Strutt
sami@bigga.co.uk

Jacobsen
www.jacobsenmatsushita.co.jp

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to provide training and career NVQs, internships, inclusion for learning-disabled and vulnerable learners and development courses. The Learning & Development Department supports early-career mentors, the learning library, online and printed resources, webinars, social media and manuals.

Baroness
Quality on Demand

L&D News
The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA
The FTMI 2014 made possible by Jacobsen will take place between 25-27 March 2014, and you could be one of the 20 delegates selected for this fantastic opportunity with applications now open.

This event is aimed at up and coming greenkeepers who want to make the leap to Course Manager. Focussing on personal and professional development, the FTMI programme utilises the expertise of leading Course Managers, dynamic trainers and industry experts to mentor and educate the next generation of industry leaders.

Presenters include:
Frank Rossi Ph.D - Director of Turfgrass Agronomy at Cornell University
David Bancroft-Turner - Specialist in leadership development and organisational politics

The ideal candidate will show initiative, dedication to greenkeeping, a genuine interest in the industry and be actively involved in education at both a regional and a national level. Representatives from BIGGA and Jacobsen will select the successful delegates.

Gina Putnam, International Marketing Manager for Ransomes Jacobsen, said: “The inaugural event last year was superb and surpassed our expectations. It provided an excellent learning experience for those greenkeepers fortunate enough to be selected. If you’re thinking of applying and feel you are ready for an intense two and a half day learning spree, then don’t hesitate to apply: you won’t regret it!”

To apply, fill in the application form online which you can find on the BIGGA website. The closing date is 13.1.2014.

As if that wasn’t enough to convince you to join this initiative, take a look at this feedback from some of last year’s delegates...

“Wow what an awesome course, the mentors were excellent, understanding and extremely supportive. The hospitality laid on by Jacobsen was also superb.” Leigh Powell, Deputy Course Manager, Hockey Golf Club.

“I wish this had been around when I was coming through the ranks. A real chance to gain the knowledge required to be a Course Manager.” Matt Hested, Course Manager, Muswell Hill Golf Club.

“The FTMI was my first involvement in a BIGGA event. I was unsure what to expect but as soon as I arrived everyone was welcoming. The presentations and the people who presented were amazing, I would recommend the FTMI to anyone.” Wesley Lenihan, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, East Brighton Golf Club.

“It was a superb programme with excellent speakers, I learnt so much that will be relevant to my career. Jacobsen and BIGGA should be proud.” Daniel Scott, Greenkeeper, Wolburn Golf & Country Club.
Following the Greenkeeper International survey, we’ve revamped the Membership pages – and we want you to get involved.

As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members.

We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you’ve found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked at a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!

Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Elaine Jones
elaine@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

(option 1 for Membership)

you can follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Personal Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0844 770 1036

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0844 770 1036

www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst

WE’RE PUTTING YOU IN THE PICTURE AT BTME!

New to BTME is our BIGGA Photo Booth! Located on the BIGGA Stand B23, we’ll be looking to update member photos which in many cases have become outdated. An example of this is Rob Welford, Course Manager at Cleethorpes Golf Club. Here’s Rob’s current membership photograph (left) and here’s what he actually looks like now (right). Tracey Maddison and Elaine Jones from Membership will be poised with the camera for all three days of the exhibition, so now’s your chance to say farewell to the 12-year-old picture or unwanted passport pic! We’re hoping it will help increase footfall on the BIGGA Stand, create a real buzz and also give you the opportunity to smile and have some fun with the BIGGA House team. It will also ensure we have some professional head and shoulders shots of our members who have attended BTME and can be reused in Greenkeeper International, the BIGGA website and in any other publicity.

BIGGA AGM AT BTME

The Annual General Meeting of BIGGA will be held during the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) at Harrogate on Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 5.15pm in the Queen’s Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

All paperwork, including the agenda and proxy voting forms will be available on the BIGGA website from Friday December 20.

BIGGA Regional Offices

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
Tracey Harvey
Mobile: 07841 948110
tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk

BTME 2014 is now just weeks away so now in the perfect time to plan your visit.
Following the Greenkeeper International survey, we’ve revamped the Membership pages – and we want you to get involved.

As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members. We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you’ve found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked at a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!

Future Turf Managers Initiative

25 - 27 March 2014

Applications now open at www.bigga.org.uk

- For up and coming greenkeepers who want to make the leap to Course Manager
- Gain knowledge and insight from leading Course Managers, dynamic trainers and industry experts
- Two and a half intensive days of seminars, presentations and workshops
- Topics include communication, budgeting, team management, CV writing and interview tips and more

Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by

Jacobsen

4x4
1000lt tank
auto rate control
ground follow boom
6m boom with 8m extendable boom

the only dedicated sprayer that ticks all the boxes!
see this machine at BTME in Harrogate 21st to 23rd Jan 2014 <> or book your demo now

www.gambettiuk.co.uk <> 01361 883418

BIGGA AGM AT BTME

The Annual General Meeting of BIGGA will be held during the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) at Harrogate on Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 5.15pm in the Queen’s Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

All paperwork, including the agenda and proxy voting forms will be available on the BIGGA website from Friday December 20.

Pre Register Now for BTME 2014

Pre registering for BTME is essential - visit www.btme.org.uk and click REGISTER NOW. This helps you avoid the queues and ensures you make the most out of your visit to BTME which this year features over a hundred major exhibitors, the hugely popular Turf Managers Conference on Monday 20 January, our unrivalled Continue to Learn education programme and our new Welcome Celebration on Tuesday 21 January featuring guest speaker Peter Alliss (below).

BTME 2014 is now just weeks away so now is the perfect time to plan your visit.
ETESIA BACK AT BTME

Etesia returns to BTME in January to give greenkeepers and turf managers a chance to see an exciting range of new products. The Etesia team will be out in force on stand A53, showcasing its range of environmentally friendly professional products including an electric ride-on mower, the ETMower robot mower and a range of Ducut pedestrian mowers along with Pellenc’s lithium-ion battery powered chainsaws, pole saws, hedge trimmers, blowers, brushcutter and pruning shears.

New for 2014 is the Pellenc Elexion 2000 as-a-handle brushcutter. The Elexion 2000 presents almost 98% of the direct emissions of a petrol engine. As with all other Pellenc products, the Elexion 2000 uses the ultra-high capacity technology of the Pellenc lithium battery and guarantees non-polluting, odourless operation with quick start-up and up to 4.5hrs of continuous operation.

Pellenc is the only professional tool manufacturer to offer a whole multitude of different tasks – cut and collect, cut and drop or mulch. Also new for 2014 is a range of Duocut pedestrian mowers. The PKCTM 46cm and LKCGM 53cm models are available with a 50 litre grass box, the PKCTM has seven cutting height settings, which are quickly adjustable from 28-85mm and an aluminium cutting deck.

JOHNSONS BRING BRAZIL TO HARROGATE

DLF-Johnsons Sports Seed will bring a Brazilian feel to BTME 2014. Based on the successful playing surfaces of the last World Cup in South Africa 2010, seed from the DLF Group has again been chosen for all World Cup stadiums and training pitches for Brazil 2014. To celebrate, the company has instigated a Europe-wide competition to win tickets to see the tournament in action.

The new 4turf™ cultivar is the chosen mixture has been trialed in the UK at the ETESIA and the final seed mixture thoroughly tested in Brazil by both internal and external advisors. Local sports grass specialists, Football pitches in Brazil are generally Bermuda grass based, but due to the winter dormancy of Bermuda grass the pitches need to be seeded with tolerant sports turfgrasses to provide the perfect playing surface. To meet this requirement, the pitches have been overseeded with DLF’s top performing Perennial ryegrasses including 4turf™, a new and innovative turfgrass from the 35% stable of DLF-TRIFOLIUM. 4turf™ will be widely available in the spring of 2014.

NEW CAMPEYS IMANTS AT BTME

Being small doesn’t necessarily mean less effective. What the new Imants Mini Rotoknife from Campeys lacks in stature it makes up for in speed and performance.

What you get is a multi-purpose linear disc aerator that will reduce surface compaction, improve aeration, reduce thatch build up and remove surface water, in a single pass.

This amazing little machine packs a real punch as it moves quickly across the surface.

Whether towed or mounted, it applies itself to combating areas of general wear and tear, or areas that need help recovering from excessive use; a disc rotor with three settings gives flexibility in working depth and linear spacing, allowing deep-sitting to a depth of 100mm, or a shallow setting at 50mm spacing. It is ideal on warm or cool season grasses.

The Imants Mini-Rotoknife is a versatile, effective aeration machine that may be small but can still cut it with the big boys!

Come see for yourself on Stand B58.

Also, a presentation by David Harrison, Campey’s Export Sales Manager will be held on on Tuesday 21 January at 1.45pm entitled ‘A Revolution in Renovation’.

30 years ago, stadium and grounds managers largely followed the path set by golf greenkeepers in renovating their pitches, often copying their methods and buying up their old, used machinery!

With increased demand from a global TV audience to produce quality pitches at the top grounds and stadiums, often in a hostile environment for grass, today’s groundsmen are looking to innovative methods and machinery to carry out their maintenance and renovation.

This seminar will look at the renovation done on some of the world’s best pitches and how some of these practices are now being adopted by golf greenkeepers.

Anyone with a professional interest in maintaining and renovating sports turf pitches will benefit from attending this event in the Queen’s Suite.
ETESIA BACK AT BTME

Etesia returns to BTME in January to give greenkeepers and turf managers a chance to see an exciting range of new products. The Etesia team will be on stand A53, showcasing its range of environmentally friendly professional products including an electric ride-on mower, the ETMower robot mower and a range of Ducrot pedestrian mowers along with Pellenc’s lithium-ion battery powered chain saws, polesaws, hedge trimmers, blowers, brushcutters and pruning shears.

New for 2014 is the Pellenc Elevation 2000 coin-handle brushcutter. The Elevation 2000 prevents almost 98% of the direct emissions of a petrol engine. As with all other Pellenc products, the Elevation 2000 uses the ultra-high capacity technology of the Pellenc lithium battery and guarantees non-polluting, odourless operation with quick start-up and up to 4.5hrs of continuous operation.

Pellenc is the only professional tool manufacturer to offer a whole range of tools that operate with ultra-high capacity multipurpose batteries. Also new for 2014 is a range of Ducrot pedestrian mowers. The PKCM 46cm and LKCMG 53cm models are available with batteried.

JOHNSONS BRING BRAZIL TO HARROGATE

DLF Johnsons Sports Seed will bring a Brazilian feel to BTME 2014. Based on the successful playing surfaces of the last World Cup in South Africa 2010, seed from the DLF Group has again been chosen for all World Cup stadiums and training pitches for Brazil 2014. To celebrate, the company has instigated a Europe-wide competition to win tickets to see the tournament in action.

The new 4tur™ cultivar is the chosen mixture has been trialed in the UK at the STRI and the final seed mixture thoroughly tested in Brazil by both international advisors & local sports grass specialists. Football pitches in Brazil are generally Bermuda grass based, but due to the winter dormancy of Bermuda grass the pitches need to be reseeded with temperate sports turf grass to provide the perfect playing surface. To meet this requirement, the pitches have been overseeded with DLF’s top performing Perennial ryegrass including 4tur™, a new and innovative turfgrass from the 196d stable of DLF-TRIFOLIUM. 4tur™ will be widely available in the spring of 2014. It will be included in several new mixtures for the professional market unveiled at the show by Johnsons Sports Seed. Details of the World Cup competition, linked to 4tur™, and how to enter will be colourfully.

NEW CAMPEYS IMANTS AT BTME

Being small doesn’t necessarily mean less effective. What the new Imants Mini Rotoknife from Campeys lacks in stature it makes up for in speed and performance.

What you get is a multi-purpose linear, disc-aerator that will reduce surface compaction, improve aeration, reduce thatch build up and remove surface water, in a single pass. This amazing little machine packs a real punch as it moves quickly across the surface.

Whether towed or mounted, it applies itself to combating areas of general wear and tear, or areas that need help recovering from excessive use.

A disc rotor with three settings gives flexibility in working depth and linear spacing, allowing deep-sitting to a depth of 100mm, or a shallow setting at 50mm spacing. It is ideal on warm or cool season grass the pitches need to be reinforced with temperate grasses including 4tur™, a new and innovative turfgrass from the 196d stable of DLF-TRIFOLIUM. 4tur™ will be widely available in the spring of 2014.

A disc rotor with three settings gives flexibility in working depth and linear spacing, allowing deep-sitting to a depth of 100mm, or a shallow setting at 50mm spacing. It is ideal on warm or cool season grass the pitches need to be reinforced with temperate grasses.

Imants Mini Rotoknife is a versatile, effective aeration machine that may be small but can still cut it with the big boys!

Come see for yourself on Stand B58.

Also, a presentation by David Harrison, Campey’s Export Sales Manager will be held on on Tuesday 21 January at 1.45pm entitled ‘A Revolution in Renovation’.

30 years ago, stadium and grounds managers largely followed the path set by golf greenkeepers in renovating their pitches, often copying their methods and buying up their old, used machinery!

With increased demand from a global TV audience to produce quality pitches at the top grounds and stadiums, often in a hostile environment for grass, today’s groundsmen are looking to innovative methods and machinery to carry out their maintenance and renovation.

This seminar will look at the renovation door on some of the world’s best pitches and how some of these practices are now being adopted by golf greenkeepers.

Anyone with a professional interest in maintaining and renovating sports turf pitches will benefit from attending this event in the Queen’s Suite.
PREVIEW

Premier All-Weather Surfaces for Golf

The Castle Course, St. Andrews

Huxley Golf All-Weather Practice Tees

UK and Overseas Enquiries:
Tel +44 (0)1962 733222
Email: sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
www.huxleygolf.com

The Grass Group always aims to bring new products and ideas to the market. For BTME 2014 it will be the way to buy quality tines; a new advanced 26" pedestrian mower and a lower maintenance rotary mower.

www.tines-shop.co.uk is an online shop offering a comprehensive range of competitively priced replacement Tines and Bedknives manufactured to the highest quality.

The Grass Group has established an exclusive partnership for the UK and Europe with US manufacturer Ceres Turf Inc.

Manufactured from 41/40 superior steel in a one piece solid construction method that exceed the norm. CTI's solid rod construction enables longer life with optimum wear and are considered to be 'best-in-class' to provide significant operational performance with value for money.

Visitors to the website will see a selection of the most popular Tines and Bedknives suitable for a range of OEMs. To complement the established ATT INFiNiSystems' 22" pedestrian mower The Grass Group will be showing its new bigger brother the 26" version. The product will be kept under wraps until it is introduced at BTME 2014 – come and see us on Stand A35.

Dennis and SISIS will be on stand A5 at BTME with a continuation of the successful product launches from IOG SALTEX earlier this year. The joint stand will feature a range of products that have been engineered to provide turf professionals with machines that really perform.

On the stand will be the new SISIS Rotorake 600HD pedestrian scarifier and redesigned SISIS TM1000 tractor mounted scarifier which now features five quick release interchangeable reels to aid the removal and control of thatch and help reduce standing surface water by improving water infiltration.

Completing the SISIS line-up will be the Autoslit pedestrian deep slitter, which is ideal for use on fine or outfield turf.

From Dennis, there will be the Razor Ultra 560 mower which has been developed specifically for golf greens and tees, cricket pitches and bowling greens. The machine has a 560mm (22") cutting width and incorporates many key features including an 11 bladed cutting cylinder, ultra short wheelbase for undulating surfaces, tungsten tipped groomer, compact handle design for extra manoeuvrability, click height adjusters and stub free transport wheels for easy transport from site to site.

Finally, the most popular Dennis machine - the FT interchangeable cassette mower will also be on display. The range gives operators maximum versatility with options to fit 11 different heads including scarifiers, verticutters, brushes, spikers and slitters as well as 5 or 10 blade cutter cassettes. Models are available as 17" (43cm), 20" (51cm) and 24" (61cm) widths.
INNOVATION FROM THE GRASS GROUP

The Grass Group always aims to bring new products and ideas to the market.

For BTME 2014 it will be the way to buy quality tines; a new advanced 26” pedestrian mower and a lower maintenance rotary mower.

www.tines-shop.co.uk is an online shop offering a comprehensive range of competitively priced replacement Tines and Bedknives manufactured to the highest quality.

The Grass Group has established an exclusive partnership for the UK and Europe with US manufacturer Ceres Turf Inc.

Manufactured from 41/40 superior steel in a one piece solid construction method that exceed the norm.

CTI’s solid rod construction enables longer life with optimum wear and are considered to be ‘best-in-class’ to provide significant operational performance with extra maneuverability, click height adjusters and stub free transport wheels for easy transport from site to site.

Finally, the most popular Dennis machine - the FT interchangeable cassette mower will also be on display.

The range gives operators maximum versatility with options to fit 11 different heads including scarifiers, verticutters, brushes, spikers and slitters as well as 5 or 10 blade cutter cassettes with 30 seconds changeover of cassettes. Models are available as 17” (43cm), 20” (51cm) and 24” (61cm) widths.

DENNIS AND SISIS AT BTME 2014

Dennis and SISIS will be on stand A5 at BTME with a continuation of the successful product launches from IOG SALTEX earlier this year.

The joint stand will feature a range of products that have been engineered to provide turf professionals with machines that really perform.

On the stand will be the new SISIS Rotorake 600HD pedestrian scarifier and redesigned SISIS TM1000 tractor mounted scarifier which now features five quick release interchangeable reels to aid the removal and control of thatch and help reduce standing surface water by improving water infiltration.

Completing the SISIS line up will be the Azaleah pedestrian deep slitter, which is ideal for use on finer or cutfairf turf.

From Dennis, there will be the Razor ultra 560 mower which has been developed specifically for golf greens and tees, cricket pitches and bowling greens.

The unit has a 560mm (22”) cutting width and incorporates many key features including an 11 bladed cutting cylinder, ultra short wheelbase for undulating surfaces, tungsten tipped groomer, compact handle design for extra maneuverability, click height adjusters and stub free transport wheels for easy transport from site to site.

Finally, the most popular Dennis machine - the FT interchangeable cassette mower will also be on display.

The range gives operators maximum versatility with options to fit 11 different heads including scarifiers, verticutters, brushes, spikers and slitters as well as 5 or 10 blade cutter cassettes with 30 seconds changeover of cassettes. Models are available as 17” (43cm), 20” (51cm) and 24” (61cm) widths.
TILLERS TURF CELEBRATES 25TH BIRTHDAY AT BTME

Tillers Turf is celebrating 25 years in business in January by sharing its success with visitors to BTME. The company will be giving away a bottle of champagne every 25 minutes during the show via a prize draw on their stand A51. In addition there will be a competition to win a pair of tickets to The Open at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, to include full corporate hospitality.

Managing Director Tim Fell said: “Golf has been a major part of our business since we began growing turf back in 1989, and BTME has played a crucial role in promoting our products. One of the most striking changes over that period is the degree of professionalism in greenkeeping. BIGGA have played a major part in this development, and we’re delighted to be able to celebrate with them.”

Golf courses in England, Scotland and Wales are the most important market for Tillers Turf. With a wide range of different mixtures of grass, the company can provide turf for all areas of the golf course.

One recent innovation involves growing turf for transfer reseeding using a bespoke system including a high percentage of silt, which sets like a brick in the bunker wall.

Although primarily for green roofs and landscaping Tillers Wildflower turf is increasingly being used for creating biodiversity and interest on featured areas of golf courses.

GAMBETTI LAUNCH NEW SPRAYER AT BTME

Gambetti Sprayers are launching their latest dedicated sprayer at BTME.

This new unit meets all the demands of the modern golf course and delivers the latest technology that professional superintendents and greenkeepers are looking for.

We needed a machine that can deliver large volume, cover large areas and have a low ground pressure footprint, so it can be used in all areas. The Pro Dedicated certainly achieves this and more.

The machine has four independent wheelbase suspension units which deliver the best terrain handling ability giving the operator and machine a comfortable drive. Four wheel drive is also a standard feature.

The sprayer tank has an 11000 capacity and features a dry tank gauge, so the operator can see the tank content at a glance. There is a high quality agitation system which ensures a uniform distribution of product throughout the tank.

The Pro Dedicated 1000 is available with 3 boom options. Standard is the electric folding GF aluminium ground following boom. This boom follows the exact contours of the terrain put in front of it.

A chemical induction hopper is also a standard feature. Using a chemical induction hopper is the only way of ensuring the chemical is put into the tank and mixed properly so there are no concentrated pockets within the sprayer tank.

A high pressure container washer is also a standard feature. Our rate control system has been used for much retrofit.

Baseguard, however, fills these voids especially when fitted with iron grilles.

Leaves, cigarette ends and other debris, even more when fitted with iron grilles.

Although primarily for green roofs and landscaping Tillers Wildflower turf is increasingly being used for creating biodiversity and interest on featured areas of golf courses.

THE STIG RETURNS TO BTME WITH COMPLETE WEED CONTROL

BTME marks the return of ‘The Stig Driving Challenge’ on the Complete Weed Control stand, where visitors can see the range of weed and ice control services that the company offer.

Visitors to Stand C48 will be invited to set a ‘hot lap’ on the Top Gear track with everyone’s times going up on the Leaderboard. The CWC Stig will set the ‘best time’ each morning with prizes being offered for the fastest time set from each day.

Following the successful launch of the Weed-IT machine at IOG SALTEX earlier this year, which sees the machine being available to purchase in the UK for the first time, CWC will be looking to appoint suitable dealers in order to create a network that can provide regional back-up and support for both the Weed-IT machine and the chosen carrier vehicle.

Following the show, on-site demonstrations will be available as well as bespoke builds for task specific machine use.

‘We feel that it is now time for the weed spraying industry in the UK to step up to the plate and face its collective responsibilities to protect the environment in which we operate,’ says Ian Graham, CWC’s Managing Director. ‘Making the technology available to everyone removes the excuse for the blanket spraying of large areas of hard surfaces.

With the changes in the label for glyphosate, access to this state-of-the-art machinery has never been required more.’

Also on show will be the company’s baseguard product. Baseguard allows water and nutrients through its porous structure to the roots below, negating the issue associated with compaction. Tree wells are often choked with leaves, cigarette ends and other debris, especially when fitted with iron grilles.

Although primarily for green roofs and landscaping Tillers Wildflower turf is increasingly being used for creating biodiversity and interest on featured areas of golf courses.

Gambetti Sprayers are launching their latest dedicated sprayer at BTME.

This new unit meets all the demands of the modern golf course and delivers the latest technology that professional superintendents and greenkeepers are looking for.

We needed a machine that can deliver large volume, cover large areas and have a low ground pressure footprint, so it can be used in all areas. The Pro Dedicated certainly achieves this and more.

The machine has four independent wheelbase suspension units which deliver the best terrain handling ability giving the operator and machine a comfortable drive. Four wheel drive is also a standard feature.

The sprayer tank has an 11000 capacity and features a dry tank gauge, so the operator can see the tank content at a glance. There is a high quality agitation system which ensures a uniform distribution of product throughout the tank.

The Pro Dedicated 1000 is available with 3 boom options. Standard is the electric folding GF aluminium ground following boom. This boom follows the exact contours of the terrain put in front of it.

A chemical induction hopper is also a standard feature. Using a chemical induction hopper is the only way of ensuring the chemical is put into the tank and mixed properly so there are no concentrated pockets within the sprayer tank.

A high pressure container washer is also a standard feature. Our rate control system has been used for much retrofit.

Baseguard, however, fills these voids especially when fitted with iron grilles.

Leaves, cigarette ends and other debris, even more when fitted with iron grilles.

Although primarily for green roofs and landscaping Tillers Wildflower turf is increasingly being used for creating biodiversity and interest on featured areas of golf courses.

THE STIG RETURNS TO BTME WITH COMPLETE WEED CONTROL

BTME marks the return of ‘The Stig Driving Challenge’ on the Complete Weed Control stand, where visitors can see the range of weed and ice control services that the company offer.

Visitors to Stand C48 will be invited to set a ‘hot lap’ on the Top Gear track with everyone’s times going up on the Leaderboard. The CWC Stig will set the ‘best time’ each morning with prizes being offered for the fastest time set from each day.

Following the successful launch of the Weed-IT machine at IOG SALTEX earlier this year, which sees the machine being available to purchase in the UK for the first time, CWC will be looking to appoint suitable dealers in order to create a network that can provide regional back-up and support for both the Weed-IT machine and the chosen carrier vehicle.

Following the show, on-site demonstrations will be available as well as bespoke builds for task specific machine use.

‘We feel that it is now time for the weed spraying industry in the UK to step up to the plate and face its collective responsibilities to protect the environment in which we operate.’ says Ian Graham, CWC’s Managing Director. ‘Making the technology available to everyone removes the excuse for the blanket spraying of large areas of hard surfaces.

With the changes in the label for glyphosate, access to this state-of-the-art machinery has never been required more.’

Also on show will be the company’s baseguard product. Baseguard allows water and nutrients through its porous structure to the roots below, negating the issue associated with compaction. Tree wells are often choked with leaves, cigarette ends and other debris, especially when fitted with iron grilles.

Although primarily for green roofs and landscaping Tillers Wildflower turf is increasingly being used for creating biodiversity and interest on featured areas of golf courses.

Gambetti Sprayers are launching their latest dedicated sprayer at BTME.

This new unit meets all the demands of the modern golf course and delivers the latest technology that professional superintendents and greenkeepers are looking for.

We needed a machine that can deliver large volume, cover large areas and have a low ground pressure footprint, so it can be used in all areas. The Pro Dedicated certainly achieves this and more.

The machine has four independent wheelbase suspension units which deliver the best terrain handling ability giving the operator and machine a comfortable drive. Four wheel drive is also a standard feature.

The sprayer tank has an 11000 capacity and features a dry tank gauge, so the operator can see the tank content at a glance. There is a high quality agitation system which ensures a uniform distribution of product throughout the tank.

The Pro Dedicated 1000 is available with 3 boom options. Standard is the electric folding GF aluminium ground following boom. This boom follows the exact contours of the terrain put in front of it.

A chemical induction hopper is also a standard feature. Using a chemical induction hopper is the only way of ensuring the chemical is put into the tank and mixed properly so there are no concentrated pockets within the sprayer tank.

A high pressure container washer is also a standard feature. Our rate control system has been used for much retrofit.

Baseguard, however, fills these voids especially when fitted with iron grilles.

Leaves, cigarette ends and other debris, even more when fitted with iron grilles.

Although primarily for green roofs and landscaping Tillers Wildflower turf is increasingly being used for creating biodiversity and interest on featured areas of golf courses.

THE STIG RETURNS TO BTME WITH COMPLETE WEED CONTROL

BTME marks the return of ‘The Stig Driving Challenge’ on the Complete Weed Control stand, where visitors can see the range of weed and ice control services that the company offer.

Visitors to Stand C48 will be invited to set a ‘hot lap’ on the Top Gear track with everyone’s times going up on the Leaderboard. The CWC Stig will set the ‘best time’ each morning with prizes being offered for the fastest time set from each day.

Following the successful launch of the Weed-IT machine at IOG SALTEX earlier this year, which sees the machine being available to purchase in the UK for the first time, CWC will be looking to appoint suitable dealers in order to create a network that can provide regional back-up and support for both the Weed-IT machine and the chosen carrier vehicle.

Following the show, on-site demonstrations will be available as well as bespoke builds for task specific machine use.

‘We feel that it is now time for the weed spraying industry in the UK to step up to the plate and face its collective responsibilities to protect the environment in which we operate.’ says Ian Graham, CWC’s Managing Director. ‘Making the technology available to everyone removes the excuse for the blanket spraying of large areas of hard surfaces.

With the changes in the label for glyphosate, access to this state-of-the-art machinery has never been required more.’

Also on show will be the company’s baseguard product. Baseguard allows water and nutrients through its porous structure to the roots below, negating the issue associated with compaction. Tree wells are often choked with leaves, cigarette ends and other debris, especially when fitted with iron grilles.

Although primarily for green roofs and landscaping Tillers Wildflower turf is increasingly being used for creating biodiversity and interest on featured areas of golf courses.
Tillers Turf is celebrating 25 years in business in January by sharing its success with visitors to BTME. The company will be giving away a bottle of champagne every 25 minutes during the show via a prize draw on their stand A51.

In addition there will be a competition to win a pair of tickets to The Open at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, to include full corporate hospitality.

Managing Director Tim Fell said: “Golf has been a major part of our business since we began growing turf back in 1989, and BTME has played a crucial role in promoting our products. One of the most striking changes over that period is the degree of professionalism in greenkeeping. BIGGA have played a major part in this development, and we’re delighted to be able to celebrate with them.”

Golf courses in England, Scotland and Wales are the most important market for Tillers Turf. With a wide range of different mixtures of grasses the company can provide turf for all areas of the golf course.

One recent innovation involves growing turf for fairway reseeding using a bespoke soil including a high percentage of silt, which sets like a brick in the bunker wall.

Adam Pounds, Sales and Marketing Manager, puts the company’s success down to consistent quality and service. He said: “We always try to go the extra mile for our customers, who are at the heart of our business.”

Export of the Company’s turf to Europe is continuing to grow with sales to Norway, Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, Switzerland, France and Ireland. The latest product to come onto the market is Tillers Wildflower turf which includes up to 30 native species of wildflowers and grasses.

Although primarily for green roofs and landscaping Tillers Wildflower turf is increasingly being used for creating biodiversity and interest on featured areas of golf courses.

Gambetti Sprayers are launching their latest dedicated sprayer at BTME.

This new unit meets all the demands of the modern golf course and delivers the latest technology that professional superintendents and greenkeepers are looking for.

We needed a machine that can deliver large volume, cover large areas and have a low ground pressure footprint, so it can be used in all areas. The Pro Dedicated certainly achieves this and more.

The machine has four independent wheelhouse suspension units which deliver the best terrain handling ability giving the operator and machine a comfortable drive. Four wheel drive is also a standard feature.

The sprayer tank has an 11000 capacity and features a dry tank gauge, so the operator can see the tank content at a glance. There is a high quality agitation system which ensures a uniform distribution of product throughout the tank. The Pro Dedicated 1000 is available with 1 boom option. Standard is the electric folding GF aluminium ground following boom. This booms follows the exact contours of the terrain put in front of it.

A chemical induction hopper is also a standard feature. Using a chemical induction hopper is the only way of ensuring the chemical is put into the tank and mixed properly so there are no concentrated pockets within the sprayer tank. A high pressure container is also standard throughout the tank. The Pro Dedicated 1000 is available with 1 boom option. Standard is the electric folding GF aluminium ground following boom. This booms follows the exact contours of the terrain put in front of it.

A chemical induction hopper is also a standard feature. Using a chemical induction hopper is the only way of ensuring the chemical is put into the tank and mixed properly so there are no concentrated pockets within the sprayer tank. A high pressure container is also standard throughout the tank. The Pro Dedicated 1000 is available with 1 boom option. Standard is the electric folding GF aluminium ground following boom. This booms follows the exact contours of the terrain put in front of it.

A chemical induction hopper is also a standard feature. Using a chemical induction hopper is the only way of ensuring the chemical is put into the tank and mixed properly so there are no concentrated pockets within the sprayer tank. A high pressure container is also standard throughout the tank. The Pro Dedicated 1000 is available with 1 boom option. Standard is the electric folding GF aluminium ground following boom. This booms follows the exact contours of the terrain put in front of it.

This system turns off every individual nozzle when it passes over an area that is already sprayed, and turns it back on again when over an untreated surface. Come and see us on Stand A61!

BTME marks the return of ‘The Stig Driving Challenge’ on the Complete Weed Control stand, where visitors can also see the range of weed and ice control services that the company offer.

Visitors to Stand C48 will be invited to set a hot lap on the Top Gear track with everyone’s times going up on the Leaderboard. The CWC Stig will set the ‘best time’ each morning with prizes being offered for the fastest time set from each day.

Following the successful launch of the Weed-IT machine at IOG SALTEX earlier this year, which sees the machine being available to purchase in the UK for the first time, CWC will be looking to appoint suitable dealers in order to create a network that can provide regional back-up and support for both the Weed-IT machine and the chosen carrier vehicle.

Following the show, on-site demonstrations will be available as well as bespoke builds for task specific machinery.

“We feel that it is now time for the weed spraying industry in the UK to step up to the plate and face its collective responsibilities to protect the environment in which we operate,” says Lars Graham, CWC’s Managing Director. “Making the technology available to everyone removes the excuse for the blanket spraying of hazard areas on hard surfaces.

‘With the changes in the label for glyphosate, access to this state-of-the-art machinery has now never been required more.’

Also on show will be the company’s baseguard product. Baseguard allows water and nutrients through its porous structure to the roots below, negating the issues associated with compaction. Tree roots are often choked with leaves, cigarette ends and other debris, especially when fitted with iron grilles. Baseguard, however, fills these voids and can be installed in conjunction with grilles when the tree is planted, or as a retrofit.

In recent months the baseguard system has been used for much larger applications than simply tree surrounds, with access roads to sports pitches at Premier League training grounds as well as hotspots and play areas at schools being just some of its uses.
BLEC TO LAUNCH NEW MACHINES AT HARROGATE

BLEC GLOBAL will use BTME to launch new products for the golf and sportsturf industry on stand A39.

These include: a revolutionary new tractor-mounted golf green disc overseeder with 25.4mm (one inch) spacing between the discs - the closest spacing of any disc seeder produced by BLEC.

And BLEC has also built a new two-wheel tractor with a power transmission unit that will operate many machines, including their own Power Box Rakes.

The tractor will be available with a Honda or Yamaha engine, diesel or petrol options - and with drive to the front and rear drums.

Also at BTME will be the BLEC Laser Grader - a popular machine with golf course contractors for levelling and rebuilding tees.

Another universally successful machine on show will be the Multivator - which decompacts and recycles rootzone material in one pass.

BLEC managing director Gary Mumby said: “BTME is a very important show for us where we get the chance to start the year by showing our innovations for golf and sportsturf professionals.

“It is a great place to catch up with customers and old friends and we look forward to seeing them on the stand.”

MANSFIELD SAND DEBUT AT BTME 2014

Mansfield Sand Company Ltd will showcase their range of Sports Sands and Landscaping products at stand B31 in Hall B at BTME alongside Lincolnshire-based turf supplier, County Turf Ltd.

Privately owned Mansfield Sand supplies rootzone materials, top dressing and bunker sand to over 400 golf courses across the UK, including the home of the English Senior Open, Rockcliffe Hall, and Lee Westwood-endorsed Close House.

The company also supplies pitch materials to a very high percentage of the professional football and rugby clubs throughout the UK as well as councils, schools, universities and private sports facilities.

Mansfield Sand has supplied sand based products from its base in North Nottinghamshire for over 150 years and was recently granted planning permission to develop a new quarry in the local area, securing the future of the company.

All landscaping products developed by the Mansfield Sand are based on blends of various grades of silica sand and PAS100 accredited green compost.

Mansfield Sand and County Turf have enjoyed a successful business relationship for many years and recently worked together to renovate the Leeds Carnegie pitch at Headingley Stadium and the Ullevi Stadium pitch in Gothenburg, Sweden.

“This is Mansfield Sand’s first time at BTME and we are very proud to be exhibiting our range of top class products alongside County Turf”, explained Sharon Morris, Mansfield Sand’s Golf Sales Manager.

“Two years ago we granted County Turf exclusive rights to produce custom grown Fibresand and Fibrelastic Turf and it has proved to be an extremely successful partnership.

“The exchange of technical expertise coupled with the dedication to deliver the very best sports and landscaping surfaces has been of great benefit to both companies and the customers we supply.”

Andy Fraser, Managing Director of County Turf agreed: “Both Mansfield Sand and County Turf pride ourselves on the quality of our products and our ability to satisfy the many requirements of landscaping contractors, sportfield specifiers and users alike.

“Our collaboration on projects such as the Headingley Stadium is testament to this.”
BLEC GLOBAL will use BTME to launch new products for the golf and sportsturf industry on stand A39. These include a revolutionary new tractor-mounted golf green disc overseeder with 25.4mm (one inch) spacing between the discs - the closest spacing of any disc seeder produced by BLEC.

And BLEC has also built a new two-wheel tractor with a power transmission unit that will operate many machines, including their own Power Box Rakes. The tractor will be available with a Honda or Yamaha engine, diesel or petrol options - and with drive to the front and rear drums.

Also at BTME will be the BLEC Laser Grader - a popular machine with golf course contractors for levelling and rebuilding tees.

Another universally successful machine on show will be the Multivator - which decompacts and recycles rootzone material in one pass.

BLEC managing director Gary Mumby said: “BTME is a very important show for us where we get the chance to start the year by showing our innovations for golf and sportsturf professionals. It is a great place to catch up with customers and old friends and we look forward to seeing them on the stand.”

Mansfield Sand Company Ltd will showcase their range of Sports Sands and Landscaping products at stand B31 in Hall B at BTME alongside Lincolnshire-based turf supplier, County Turf Ltd.

Privately owned Mansfield Sand supplies rootzone materials, top dressing and bunker sand to over 400 golf courses across the UK, including the home of the English Senior Open, Rockcliffe Hall, and Lee Westwood-endorsed Close House.

The company also supplies pitch materials to a very high percentage of the professional football and rugby clubs throughout the UK as well as councils, schools, universities and private sports facilities.

Mansfield Sand has supplied sand based products from its base in North Nottinghamshire for over 150 years and was recently granted planning permission to develop a new quarry in the local area, securing the future of the company.

All landscaping products developed by the Mansfield Sand are based on blends of various grades of silica sand and PAS100 accredited green compost.

Mansfield Sand and County Turf have enjoyed a successful business relationship for many years and recently worked together to renovate the Leeds Carnegie pitch at Headingley Stadium and the Ullevi Stadium pitch in Gothenburg, Sweden.

“This is Mansfield Sand’s first time at BTME and we are very proud to be exhibiting our range of top class products alongside County Turf”, explained Sharon Morris, Mansfield Sand’s Golf Sales Manager. “Two years ago we granted County Turf exclusivity to produce custom grown Fibresand and Fibrelastic Turf and it has proved to be an extremely successful partnership.

The exchange of technical expertise coupled with the dedication to deliver the very best sports and landscaping surfaces has been of great benefit to both companies and the customers we supply”.

Andy Fraser, Managing Director of County Turf agreed: “Both Mansfield Sand and County Turf pride ourselves on the quality of our products and our ability to satisfy the many requirements of landscaping contractors, sportsfield specifiers and users alike.

Our collaboration on projects such as the Headingley Stadium is testament to this.”

TurfKeeper.com: The original turf management system, is a dynamic online management tool for the Turfkeeping Industry, offering a wide range of planning, resources and business tools.

- Powerful Planner Tools
- Stock Control
- Staff Management
- In-Depth Reporting
- Budget Planner
- Machinery Management
- Applications Planner
- Accessible Anywhere
- Safe & Secure Data
- and much more...

REQUEST A FREE ONLINE DEMO TODAY
www.turfkeeper.com  |  info@turfkeeper.com  |  0161 8131797
IS THE STAR

proved to be a winner.

engineering, the system has

featuring simple yet effective

own. Safely below ground and

unobtrusive system on the

and save water! It is the most

are simple; Prevent pollution

ClearWater.

system against taxable profits;

the cost of installing ClearWater

companies investing in the

scheme. This means that

(Enhanced Capital Allowance)

allowances under the ECA

for 100% 1st year capital

saving technology, qualifies

manufactured in the UK, being

Highspeed Group Ltd and

Hannover.

conference and exhibition in

been featured at the German

stand C15 at BTME.

to EN858 standard, has also

come recently in France too

East Lake golf course in

the USA, supplying a system

secured its first order from

sector and recently the company

others in the turf management

acclaimed systems have been

Recycling System designed

WTL approved Washpad Water

ClearWater, the UK's No.1

GI

ClearWater's main aims

NEW JOHN DEERE MODELS AT BTME

New machines from John

Deere’s comprehensive

golf and turf maintenance

product range will be

featured at BTME 2014 on

Stand M30.

These include the new

XV950R commercial rear

discharge/rear collect
diesel lawn tractor — a first

for the company — and the

latest heavy-duty 4x4 Gator

general utility vehicle, the fast and

powerful XV 825S petrol

diesel engine model.

The basic 24hp XV950R will

be available in four different

configurations, with a choice

of 122 or 137cm (48 or 54in)

rotary mower decks and

either a 550-litre (low dump)
or 670-litre (high dump)

materials collection system.

Additional user-friendly features include a unique

single multi-function hydraulic lever for operating the

mower deck, collector and front mounted implements, and a separate

hydraulic pump for lifting and emptying the collector

quickly at low engine rpm.

More power, speed and

acceleration are provided by the new 50hp XV

825S Gator utility vehicle, which has a top speed of 44mph and offers

smoother, automotive-style performance. Power steering

with an anti-kickback feature is standard.

The XV825S features a

fully locking four-wheel drive system and fully

independent double

wishbone suspension, with

up to 267mm (10.5in) of

ground clearance.

The large, one-piece cargo box

provides a load capacity of

454kg, while towing

capacity is 680kg and

corral payload capacity is

635kg.

Also making its UK

show debut at Harrogate

is the new XV 855D.

The turf industry's

biggest choice of hybrid
cable walk-behind and

ride-on cylinder mowers is

represented by the XV950E

green mower and 800E

electric walk-behind mower,

equipped with innovative

QuickAdjust cutting units

featuring the SpeedLink

system for extremely quick,

height-of-cut adjustment. John

Deere’s hybrid
electric mower technology

was the first to be made

commercially available on

the amenity market, in

2005.

These machines will

line up alongside other

cylinder and rotary mowers,

Gator utility vehicles,

compact tractors and

quality parts. In addition, John

Deere Financial's latest interest-free finance

programmes mean golf and

bowls clubs can still order a

new machine until the end

of February 2014, with the

first of two annual payments

at zero per cent interest due

in March 2014, based on 60

per cent of the recommended

retail price.
Versatility at work

For demanding daily use, Kubota offers a powerful and versatile choice.

The Kubota range of groundcare machinery delivers outstanding performance, simple operation and legendary reliability.

From powerful and versatile tractors to high performance mowers, find out why Kubota is the practical choice for professionals.

Contact your local dealer to book a test drive today.

www.kubota.co.uk
Tel: 01844 268 000

For further information on our full product range:
www.kubota.co.uk
Twin Peaks

Steve Castle travelled to Wales to hear the remarkable story of the Kerry twins and to see the greenkeeping past, present and future of Royal St David’s Golf Club.
Steve Castle travelled to Wales to hear the remarkable story of the Kerry twins and to see the greenkeeping past, present and future of Royal St David's Golf Club.
Even on a wet and windswept autumnal morning, the setting for Royal St David’s Golf Club in Harlech, north west Wales, was breathtaking. It’s a remarkable location – an SSSI within Snowdonia National Park. Harlech Castle loomed high above while Snowdonia itself loomed imposingly from the north.

Roger Kerry has been Head Greenkeeper at the links for over 30 years, and his twin brother John has been Deputy for almost as long. My visit meant I would be able to examine the club’s past, present and future because they had already hired Roger’s replacement to join the team - Rhys Butler, former Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Aberdovey, a similar links 40 miles along the Welsh coast.

As I negotiated the small level crossing which runs yards from the club’s maintenance facility, I was immediately warmed by the twins, who revealed they will retire on different days! John has been Deputy for almost 40 years at Harlech, Deputy for almost 40 years, had already hired Roger’s replace-ment to join the team - Rhys Butler, former Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Aberdovey, a similar links 40 miles along the Welsh coast.

One of their first moves was to invite Jim Arthur to the course. With no formal education available, they avidly read his books and articles and knew they had to invite him to Wales – but the club needed convincing his visit was necessary.

Roger said: “The club were concerned that the knowledge Jim would pass on to the team would lead them to demanding higher wages. That was the mentality then. Eventually he came and it was a real eye opener, exactly as we’d read in his articles. He gave us all sorts of advice and pointers.”

John added: “Of course, at that time we didn’t have vertidrains or slitters, so it was a case of hand forking the greens. We gradually got them firmer, so you could play the running game.”

“Gradually, golfers started to return with low handicappers enjoying this truly natural links test of golf all year round. In turn, this attracted tournaments. During my visit, the PGA Welsh Championship was in town, and they’ve also regularly hosted the Ladies European Tour and the R&A-backed Jacques Leglise Trophy between GB & Ireland’s boys’ team and their European counterparts this year won by GB & Ireland. Naturally, this increased focus and acclaim did present its own challenges.

Roger explained: “We realised a few years ago that the practice ground was too small. Better players with more modern equipment were clearing the ground and landing balls on the 17th fairway. So, we moved the 17th fairway further left, making it a tougher hole and extending the practice ground. For the same reason we’ve also moved some of the tees back.”

The Kerrys are certainly of a busy retirement – mostly involving singing and rugby. They were recently recorded a CD – a rousing mixture of English and Welsh choral classics such as ‘Greensleeves’ and ‘My Man River’. My personal favourite is a stirring cover of ‘Anthem’ from the musical ‘ Особенности коронации’. Their second album is due to be released soon! They are also looking forward to watching more Harlech Rugby Club matches for whom Llion is one of the key players.

**ROYAL ST DAVID’S**

The main entrust with filling the Kerrys’ shoes in Rhys Butler. As well as completing his NVQ Level 2 and Level 3 at Northop College, he gained a HNC in Golf Course Management at Elmwood. This was an online distance learning course which he described as “fantastic, it covered everything I needed to know”.

He is on IGBOA’s North Wales Committee of which Roger Kerry was a founding member and was awarded an R&A Scholarship during his studies at Elmwood. Aberdovey also twice won an STRI Golf Environment Award under his stewardship.

Rhys joined the team around two months before the Kerrys retired to familiarise himself with the links, and is already beginning to implement his ideas while remaining true to some of their long-term practices. So, why Harlech?

“Agroonomically, to inherit a place like in which the Kerrys have put so much work, is a pretty hard greenkeeper’s dream. Considering the hardships they’ve gone through over the years the course is phenominal. I can’t think of many courses that have managed to change from meadowgrass to the finer grass they have now!”

He placed in a Junior Open here when he was about 13 and played in many national championships over the years, so he has been aware of this special links for a long time.

They hold plenty of tournaments here, and

**A ROYAL APPOINTMENT**
Big brother Roger said: “You didn’t want to come into greenkeeping in the 1970s. The pay was very poor, there was no education. If you could drive a tractor you were in, that was it.”

He joined in 1978, and confounded his family by becoming a head greenkeeper. He said: “With little money, an ageing greenkeeping team and soil wet green spaces dominated by meadow grasses, the club had temporary greens from November 1st all the way through until a fortnight before Easter. John joined as Deputy in 1980.

Roger continued: “The greens were so soggy even in summer. You would hit it a shot onto the 17th green and it would plug in the turf! You had 95% meadow grasses with two inches of thatch. The club didn’t invest. It had a very good name in the forties, but it was being used in the past and it wasn’t anywhere near the standard anyone wanted – the club, players or the greenkeepers. There was no structure, no long-term plan.”

One of their first moves was to invite Jim Arthur to the course. With no formal education available, they avidly read his books and articles and knew he had to convince him to Wales – but the club needed his expertise. They didn’t have the money but they knew what he stood for.

Roger said: “The club were concerned that the knowledge Jim would bring would be lost to them demanding higher wages. That was the mentality then. Eventually he came and it was a real eye opener, exactly as we’d read in his articles. He gave us all sorts of advice and pointers.”

John added: “Of course, at that time we didn’t have vertidrainers or slitters, so it was a case of hand forking the greens. We gradually got them firmer, so you could play the running game.”

“We gradually made progress, mowing drier and drier surfaces. In drought conditions in the late eighties we decided to let the course burn out for its long-term benefit. Maybe we went over the top occasionally but we were still learning. Sometimes you have to stoop to conquer.”

Gradually, golfers started to return with low handicappers enjoying this truly natural links test of golf all year round. In turn, this attracted tournaments. During my visit, the PGA Welsh National Championship was in town, and they’ve also regularly hosted the Ladies European Tour and the R&A-backed Jacques Leglise Trophy between GB & Ireland’s boys’ team and their European counterparts this year won by GB & Ireland. Naturally, this increased focus and acclaim and did present its own challenges.

Roger explained: “We realised a few years ago that the practice ground was too soft. Better players with more modern equipment were clearing the ground and landing balls on the 17th fairway. So we moved the 17th fairway further left, making it a tougher hole and extending the practice ground. For

Roger Kerry was a founding member (and won an STRI Golf Environment Award under his stewardship) of the club, golfers or the greenkeepers. It’s a far healthier place now than when they began.

Even on a wet and windswept autumnal morning, the setting for Royal St David’s Golf Club in Harlech, north west Wales, was breathtaking. It’s a remarkable location – an SSSI within Snowdonia National Park. Harlech Castle loomed high above while Snowdonia Park. Harlech Castle loomed high above while Snowdonia National Park. Harlech Castle loomed high above while Snowdonia National Park. Harlech Castle loomed high above while Snowdonia National Park.

It’s pleasing to note the Kerry name is not disappearing – John’s son Liam is First Assistant Greenkeeper, ensuring a nice historical continuation. He confirmed that the Kerrys have had a harmonious partnership, with disagreements confined to sarcastic feedback. John says, “We’re going to miss it, aren’t they?”

They both smiled before John replied: “We are but it’s time to go. The club told us we could carry on if we wanted but were open to other options. After we got on board with what we were trying to achieve they’ve been very supportive throughout the years, and that will continue to be the case with Rhys.”

It’s pleasing to note the Kerry name is not disappearing – John’s son Liam is First Assistant Greenkeeper, ensuring a nice historical continuation. He confirmed that the Kerrys have had a harmonious partnership, with disagreements confined to sarcastic feedback. John says, “We’re going to miss it, aren’t they?”

They both smiled before John replied: “We are but it’s time to go. The club told us we could carry on if we wanted but were open to other options. After we got on board with what we were trying to achieve they’ve been very supportive throughout the years, and that will continue to be the case with Rhys.”

It’s pleasing to note the Kerry name is not disappearing – John’s son Liam is First Assistant Greenkeeper, ensuring a nice historical continuation. He confirmed that the Kerrys have had a harmonious partnership, with disagreements confined to sarcastic feedback. John says, “We’re going to miss it, aren’t they?”

They both smiled before John replied: “We are but it’s time to go. The club told us we could carry on if we wanted but were open to other options. After we got on board with what we were trying to achieve they’ve been very supportive throughout the years, and that will continue to be the case with Rhys.”

It’s pleasing to note the Kerry name is not disappearing – John’s son Liam is First Assistant Greenkeeper, ensuring a nice historical continuation. He confirmed that the Kerrys have had a harmonious partnership, with disagreements confined to sarcastic feedback. John says, “We’re going to miss it, aren’t they?”

They both smiled before John replied: “We are but it’s time to go. The club told us we could carry on if we wanted but were open to other options. After we got on board with what we were trying to achieve they’ve been very supportive throughout the years, and that will continue to be the case with Rhys.”
Applications are now open for a place on BIGGA’s Open Support Team for the 143rd Open Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club next July.

We require full BIGGA members to join our team behind the scenes. They will be supporting the home greenkeeping team at Hoylake by raking bunkers alongside the players during the four rounds. You may also be required to complete early morning preparation work and evening divot repairing.

It’s a real development opportunity from both a professional and personal point of view. You will gain an understanding of the technical preparations from the home greenkeeping team and sample the atmosphere of one of the world’s greatest golf tournaments.

You will also spend several days with greenkeepers from across the UK and the world with many remaining firm friends for years to come.

You will receive accommodation, a food allowance, daily transport to and from the course, a waterproof suit and polo shirts – all you have to do is make your way to Liverpool.

The 2014 tournament proper begins on Thursday 17 July with the winner crowned on Sunday 20 July.

To apply, just fill in the application form on the opposite page and return it to Rachael Duffy by 31 January 2014.

Applications will be assessed by a panel of BIGGA officials and the selected candidates will then be allocated various roles within the team. Good luck!

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members. You must have held a full driving licence for three years and be over 25 years of age.

Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.

To apply please fill in the application form and enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF. Closing date is 31st January 2014. You will be notified in February if you have been successful.

We need you!

Join the BIGGA Open Support Team at The Open 2014, at Royal Liverpool
IMPORTANT INFO

If so please state ....................................................................

Any specific dietary needs? ....................................................

Sunday final night (20th July) accommodation required?

Monday 14th July? ............................................................................................

Polo shirt measurement; chest ....................................

Waterproof measurements; waist .................................................................

.......................................................................................................

.......................................................................................................

.......................................................................................................

.......................................................................................................

Email Address.......................................................................................................

.......................................................................................................

.......................................................................................................

.......................................................................................................

Home address....................................................................................................

BIGGA Membership Number....................................................................................

Age .............

Position.......................................................................................................

Golf  Club .......................................................................................................

Name.......................................................................................................

Closing date is 31st January 2014. You will be notified in February if you have been successful.

To apply please fill in the application form and enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark,.

Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off

three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members.

We need you @BIGGALtd32 Liverpool Golf Club next July. Open Championship at Royal

Applications are now open

for a place on BIGGA's Open

Support Team at The Open

Join the BIGGA Open

-Championship Support Team ............................................

You may also be required to com-

plete early morning preparation

ers during the four rounds.

They will be supporting the home

greenkeeping team at Hoylake by

remaining firm friends for years to

the UK and the world with many

greenkeepers from across

with greenkeepers from across

the greatest golf tournaments.

atmosphere of one of the world's

golfing venues, you will have the

chance to work and evening divot repairing. The role you will

play is to support the home
greenkeeping team and sample the

culinary delights on offer at the
catering marquee. It is the
greatest golf tournament in the

world and you will have the

opportunity to experience the
technical side of the

greenkeeping team.
Go West

West Sussex Golf Club’s Joe Dormer triumphed in our Photo Competition with this frosty April shot...
The winner of the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition 2013 is Joe Dormer, Assistant Greenkeeper at West Sussex Golf Club, with this fantastic picture looking over a pond at the club’s 14th hole.

Joe has always been keen on photography and borrowed a friend’s camera to take the winning shot on his day off, early on a frosty morning in April.

Joe said: “I’m so chuffed to win the overall competition, I really am over the moon. I used a Lumix G2 DSLR which I borrowed from friend and sheriff rep Adam Hartley.

“I noticed the potential for a great early morning shot previously, that corner of the course is in a beautiful area, abundant in wildlife in a natural heathland setting. Usually when I’m mowing greens this area is the last place you get to at around 9:30-10am so I dragged myself out of bed on my day off to get this picture at 7am. West Sussex is such a picturesque course and is managed in a way by Course Manager Ian Streeter that compliments its beauty.”

Runner-up was Gareth Roberts, Course Manager at Hankley Common, with his colourful shot of the 11th tee at his club. Greg Fitzmaurice, Head Greenkeeper at Hunley Hall Golf Club, was third with a striking cliffside image taken on his course.

Thanks to all BIGGA members who entered the competition – the next best nine entries are included in your calendar in this month’s magazine. The top 12 were chosen by professional photographers Eric Hepworth and Alan Birch plus a judging panel at BIGGA House.

Joe wins a framed print of his shot, and a framed print from Eric’s wide range of golf course photography which you can see for yourself at www.hepworthgolfphotography.com. Gareth and Greg win a print from Eric’s collection.
WILL THE MOWER WITH THE MOST POWER IN ITS CLASS...

...PLEASE RAISE YOUR ARM

Nothing is more powerful than the all-new seven-gang AR722T™ contour rotary mower from Jacobsen. With a massive 48.6 kW (65.2 horsepower) Kubota® turbo-charged diesel engine, the AR722T powers its ultra-productive 3.15 metre (124-inch) width-of-cut without slowing down.

The AR722T glides over ground contours and climbs hills with ease – thanks to the exclusive SureTrac™ four-wheel drive traction and weight transfer control.

See for yourself why the powerful and productive Jacobsen AR722T contour mower is at the head of its class – call your local Jacobsen dealer today.
WILL THE MOWER WITH THE
MOST POWER IN ITS CLASS...

...PLEASE RAISE YOUR ARM

Nothing is more powerful than the all-new seven-gang AR722T™ contour rotary mower from Jacobsen. With a massive 48.6 kW (65.2 horsepower) Kubota® turbo-charged diesel engine, the AR722T powers its ultra-productive 3.15 metre (124-inch) width-of-cut without slowing down.

The AR722T glides over ground contours and climbs hills with ease – thanks to the exclusive SureTrac™ four-wheel drive traction and weight transfer control. See for yourself why the powerful and productive Jacobsen AR722T contour mower is at the head of its class – call your local Jacobsen dealer today.
Master Greenkeeper unmasked

What is the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Award, how do you achieve it and why should I apply for it? All these questions and more answered.

The Master Greenkeeper process was started by BIGGA in 1990, and a total of 63 greenkeepers have been successful so far. It’s rightly considered to be one of the highest accolades in the history.

Master Greenkeeper is achieved via a three stage process – education, training and experience, assessment of golf course operation and a case study and technical examination.

The certificate is open to all full BIGGA members, regardless of age and whether working at a large club or a small club.

But don’t just take our word for it. We asked some of BIGGA’s Master Greenkeepers to give you more of an insight into what the process involves, how it can reward you personally and professionally, and explode some of the myths surrounding it.

CASE STUDY ONE

Alan Pierce MG (main photo)
Course Manager, Ham Manor Golf Club

Alan began studying for his Master Greenkeeper certificate in 2010 to push himself and benefit his club and their members. It took him just a year to complete the process.

He said: “During the process, the greenkeepers who were already MGs were extremely helpful and supportive. The main challenges for me were finding out what the course inspection required and also fully understanding the exam questions.

“I had enough CPD credits to progress to the course inspection stage relatively quickly. My team and I put a great deal of preparation into ensuring that our internal high standards were just met but exceeded throughout. I studied hard for the exams and was fortunate to pass the inspection and exams on my first attempt.”

“The award has many benefits. My employer is very happy with what I’ve achieved and it has encouraged me by pushing me to maintain the high standards expected of a Master Greenkeeper on a daily basis. It shows real commitment to your profession.

“I know there are rumours the MGs are a bit of an elite club but nothing could be further from the truth. Every single MG I’ve met has been very friendly and approachable. They’re all from different backgrounds and different clubs – some have very limited budgets and resources while others have excellent budgets and resources. Some have three members in their team and some 20 – but all share the determination to achieve.”

CASE STUDY TWO

Colin Parish MG (shown inset)
Course Manager, Morecambe Golf Club

Colin passed his Stage One and Stage Two in Master Greenkeeping while at Ulverston Golf Club in 1999, then moved to Morecambe Golf Club where he passed his final exam in 2005.

He commented: “I wanted to be able to manage at a high standard and have an understanding of what’s needed in every aspect of greenkeeping. I had a HND and lots of experience which helped me pass Stage One. I then gained a few years’ experience as a manager before taking Stage Two. I did not pass the exams at my first attempt so left it a year before having another go. The course was a real challenge and in the end it took me several attempts to pass them.

“Successfully passing MG has improved my confidence and self-esteem at work and in my personal life. I’ve earned real respect from my employer and they benefit from having a golf course that operates to a consistent standard at all times even when opening to certain budgets. I meet so many greenkeepers who are incredibly passionate about their job and undertaking your MG goes hand in hand with this.

“My advice to anyone considering going for Master Greenkeeper would be to go for it and don’t give up. Don’t fear failure. It took me five years to complete it. There’s supposedly a stigma around MG status but it’s not like that, all the MGs I meet are down to earth and hard working. I don’t manage a high end course, it’s a normal members club, you can achieve it.”

For more information about the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper certification, contact the BIGGA L&D team at: bigga@bigga.co.uk or call 01522 703 111.
CASE STUDY THREE
Les Howkins MG (inset)
Course Manager, The Richmond Golf Club

Les Howkins completed his MG in 2004 while at Cleethorpes Golf Club. He is now Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club. He said: “I just fed up with people moaning about the MGs and how it was only in place for greenkeepers at big clubs, so I decided to give it a go and if they were right, at least I would have the evidence to prove it.”

“My team and I worked incredibly hard to pass the course inspection and that was with a team of four and an annual budget of around £25,000.”

“The process pushed my standards up and will continue to do so. It strengthens best practice and sets a benchmark for what can be achieved.”

“It opens doors to other jobs as it really stands out on a CV. I would like to see it as the norm and the goal of every greenkeeper moving up the ladder. It’s not for the elite or the privileged few – it should be for the masses. Greenkeeper education has improved in so many areas and there is no reason more can’t make the grade – if I can do it anyone can.”

For even more on Master Greenkeeper, visit the Education section of the BIGGA website and click on the ‘Master Greenkeeper’ tab. If you’re a member you can download the Golf Course Inspection form and past examination papers from the MG Section in the members’ area. You can also contact the BIGGA L&D team at BIGGA House for more info.
Bringing back the bees

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at how Operation Pollinator is making an impact at golf clubs nationwide and asks, what’s really in it for the greenkeeper?

Operation Pollinator sounds like a mission and in many respects that’s just what it is. Its underlying aim is to wage war on the disappearance of bees from the landscape and offer them the best possible incentives to return.

This is being achieved by sowing the broadest range of pollen and nectar rich flowers to suit the tastes of the widest spectrum of these Hymenopterous (bees and wasps) insects. The essential difference is that instead of concentrating on traditional targets like meadows, natural down land and grass verges, Operation Pollinator focuses on golf courses by seeding out of play areas with a rich mix of annual and perennial flowering plants.

Operation Pollinator is the brainchild of Syngenta but has become a golf industry initiative in implementation. “It is a valuable opportunity for the golf industry to play a pivotal role in saving the bee population,” said Caroline Carroll, Marketing Communications Manager at Syngenta.

“Golf courses can be real oases for wildlife. Most have land resources and skilled managers that can create the habitat to encourage populations of bees and pollinating insects, without impinging on their members’ play.”

Golf courses are perhaps a better resource than other more traditional wild flower sites like grass verges. Indeed a recent report by the charity Plantlife drew attention to the ongoing deterioration of grass verges as habitats for wild flowers and pollinating insects caused by councils cutting too frequently.

The Operation Pollinator concept has its roots in a much earlier agricultural initiative, to establish wildflower and pollinating insect sanctuaries in field margins. The programme itself is based on knowledge and experience gained from the scientifically acclaimed ‘Buzz Project’, with over four years of field trials conducted by independent researchers.

So what are its objectives? Caroline explained: “The aim of Operation Pollinator is to establish a total of 250 hectares of pollen and nectar rich habitat across 500 golf courses in the UK and Ireland, to provide essential food sources and nesting sites for pollinating insects and especially bumblebees and wild bees in general.

“For members there is an enhanced visual and playing experience, and for managers a fast response to their endeavours. Experience shows an Operation Pollinator programme can deliver beneficial results and effects 60% quicker than conventional management techniques”.

What’s being done?

Operation Pollinator sites are established on free draining soils receiving sufficient light to encourage and promote both flowering and insect activity. South facing sites are ideal, whilst cold, north-facing sites with inherently prolonged wetness should be avoided. Site selection is based on these environmental and ecological considerations.

Out of play and undisturbed rough, alongside water resources, on fairway carries, alongside walkways between holes, around the backs of greens and woodland margins are all prime sites. Sites at the woodland edge, along hedge lines and across sunny banks will furnish additional nesting habitats for bumble bees and other pollinating insects.

Seed mix selection is very much a ‘horses for courses’ choice with Operation Pollinator recommending, rather than dictating, appropriate species combinations. Three seed mixtures - Parkland, Heathland and Links - are recommended with the exact species formulation created by specialist ecologists and entomologists, in conjunction with golf course designers and agronomists.

Syngenta is not prescriptive in its approach to seed mix selection and choice. “We simply recommend these mixtures as a template, but courses do not have to use them”, said Caroline. “Greenkeepers know their courses best and from experience what species of wild flowering plants are already established and thriving.”

Different species of plant obviously have different requirements, revolving around factors like soil pH and nutrient status, while different species of bees clearly have differing food and food requirements dictated by flower morphology (shape and structure).

But courses should aim for plant species and an overall selection with established successful flower formation and display extending over the longest possible period of flowering.

According to Syngenta the speed and end result of habitat creation will largely depend on whether a course uses a perennial or annual plant seed selection. Perennial plants will not yield much in the way of flowers during the first year, while picking up in the second year and coming into their prime in year three onwards. Courses wanting a quick fix and to get members engaged in the project could initially opt for annuals, to provide a fast stunning display and quick source of pollen and nectar in the year of planting. The question is, what will come up the following year depending how successful self-seeding has been?

This is an instance where greenkeepers can take the initiative and develop an appropriate mix of perennials and annuals according to the course, their experience of wild flowers and of course their particular preferences. Some courses are opting for non-wild annual flower mixes giving stunning displays of cosmos daisies and other garden Asteraceae (Compositae) which are ‘honeypots’ for bees. Wildlife organisations and purists might be a bit ‘sniffy’ about sowing non-native species, but after all golf courses are not universally natural landscapes and many feature trees and species from across the world.

And it’s not all about flowers because these mainly dicot (broad-leaved) species will be growing within grass awards. Grass award composition will have significant impact on seedling establishment and flowering success and therefore the visual and entomological impact of the end result. Caroline recommends encouragement of fescue grasses over rough grasses,
Bringing back the bees

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at how Operation Pollinator is making an impact at golf clubs nationwide and asks, what’s really in it for the greenkeeper?

Operation Pollinator sounds like a mission and in many respects that’s just what it is. Its underlying aim is to wage war on the disappearance of bees from the landscape and offer them the best possible incentives to return.

This is being achieved by sowing the broadest range of pollen and nectar rich flowers to suit the tastes of the widest spectrum of these Hymenopterous (bees and wasps) insects. The essential difference is that instead of concentrating on traditional targets like meadows, natural down land and grass verges, Operation Pollinator focuses on golf courses by sowing out of play areas with a rich mix of annual and perennial flowering plants.

Operation Pollinator is the brainchild of Syngenta but has become a golf industry initiative in implementation. “It is a valuable opportunity for the golf industry to play a pivotal role in saving the bee population,” said Caroline Carroll, Marketing Communications Manager at Syngenta.

“Golf courses can be real oases for wildlife. Most have land resources and skilled managers that can create the habitat to encourage populations of bees and pollinating insects, without impinging on their members’ play.”

Golf courses are perhaps a better resource than other more traditional wild flower sites like grass verges. Indeed a recent report by the charity Plantlife drew attention to the ongoing deterioration of grass verges as habitats for wild flowers and pollinating insects caused by councils cutting too frequently.

The Operation Pollinator concept has its roots in a much earlier agricultural initiative, to establish wildflower and pollinating insect sanctuaries in field margins. The programme itself is based on knowledge and experience gained from the scientifically acclaimed ‘Buzz Project’, with over four years of field trials conducted by independent researchers.

So what are its objectives? Caroline explained: “The aim of Operation Pollinator is to establish a total of 250 hectares of pollen and nectar rich habitat across 500 golf courses in the UK and Ireland, to provide essential food sources and nesting sites for pollinating insects and especially bumblebees and wild bees in general. “For members there is an enhanced visual and playing experience, and for managers a fast response to their endeavours. Experience shows an Operation Pollinator programme can deliver beneficial results and effects 60% quicker than conventional management techniques”.

What’s being done?

Operation Pollinator sites are established on free draining soils receiving sufficient light to encourage and promote both flowering and insect activity. South facing sites are ideal, whilst cold, north-facing sites with inherently prolonged wetness should be avoided. Site selection is based on these environmental and ecological considerations.

Out of play and undisturbed rough, alongside water resources, on fairway carries, alongside walkways between holes, around the back of greens and woodland margins are all prime sites. Sites at the woodland edge, along hedge lines and across sunny banks will furnish additional nesting habitats for bumble bees and other pollinating insects.

Seed mix selection is very much a ‘horses for courses’ choice with Operation Pollinator recommending, rather than dictating, appropriate species combinations. Three seed mixtures - Parkland, Heathland and Links - are recommended with the exact species formulation created by specialist ecologists and entomologists, in conjunction with golf course designers and agronomists.

Syngenta is not prescriptive in its approach to seed mix selection and choice. “We simply recommend these mixtures as a template, but courses do not have to use them”, said Caroline. “Greenkeepers know their courses best and from experience what species of wild flowering plants are already established and thriving.”

Different species of plant obviously have different requirements, revolving around factors like soil pH and nutrient status, while different species of bees clearly have differing flower and food requirements dictated by flower morphology (shape and structure).

But courses should aim for plant species and an overall selection with established successful flower formation and display extending over the longest possible period of flowering.

According to Syngenta the speed and end result of habitat creation will largely depend on whether a course uses a perennial or annual plant seed selection. Perennial plants will not yield much in the way of flowers during the first year, while picking up in the second year and coming into their prime in year three onwards. Courses wanting a quick fix and to get members engaged in the project could initially opt for annuals, to provide a fast stunning display and quick source of pollen and nectar in the year of planting. The question is, what will come up the following year depending how successful self-seeding has been?

This is an instance where greenkeepers can take the initiative and develop an appropriate mix of perennials and annuals according to the course, their experience of wild flowers and of course their particular preferences. Some courses are opting for non-wild annual flower mixes giving stunning displays of cosmos daisies and other garden Asteraceae (Compositae) which are ‘honeypots’ for bees. Wildlife organisations and purists might be a bit ‘sniffy’ about sowing non-native species, but after all golf courses are not universally natural landscapes and many feature trees and species from across the world.

And it’s not all about flowers because these mainly dicot (broad-leaved) species will be growing within grasswards. Grass seed composition will have significant impact on seedling establishment and flowering success and therefore the visual and entomological impact of the end result. Caroline recommends encouragement of fescue grasses over rough grasses,
Who's in?

Caroline says 42 clubs are signed up and when the Marriott hotel group comes on board next year this number will rise to over 50. And you don’t have to be in Operation Pollinator to be doing the right thing. “Kings Hill Golf Club in Kent, for example, is doing everything within the objectives of Operation Pollinator without actually being part of it. However, the more that become part of the initiative, the greater weight it carries in promoting golf’s true potential for ecological enhancement.”

What’s in it for greenkeepers?

The success of Operation Pollinator ultimately rests with the level of enthusiasm shown by greenkeepers, and bluntly - what’s in it for them.

Syngenta has identified the following clubs as carrying out best practice and designated them Operation Pollinator Champions: Bowood Golf and Country Club, Cleveland Golf Club, Chesterfield Golf Club, Hanbury Manor Golf and Country Club, Hockley Golf Club, London Golf Club, Massereene Golf Club, Minchinhampton Golf Club, Naas Golf Club, Rutland County Golf Club, St Andrews Links Eden Course and The Grove.

Many greenkeepers are clearly enthused and already convinced of the worth of the Operation Pollinator Programme. Steve Thompson, greenkeeper at John O’Gaunt Golf Club, said: “As we establish more wildflower areas around the course, the aim is that it will add to the experience of playing in a natural environment.”

Caroline concludes: “If a club creates just 0.5 ha of Operation Pollinator it is the same effect as 600 club members sowing a 2 x 4 m flower border at home.”
Who’s in?

panicles blowing in the wind.

wispy open fine rough with fescue

better if the flowers are borne in a

the end result will look much

like Yorkshire Fog (Holcus lanatus),

OPERATION POLLINATOR

ing golf’s true potential for ecologi-

become part of the initiative, the

part of it. However, the more that

Pollinator without actually being

within the objectives of Operation

Pollinator to be doing the right

you don’t have to be in Operation

this number will rise to over 50. And

up and when the Marriott hotel

Course and The Grove.

Golf Club, St Andrews Links Eden

Naas Golf Club, Rutland County

Club, Minchinhampton Golf Club,

London Golf Club, Massereene Golf

Country Club, Hockley Golf Club,

Cleveland Golf Club, Chesterfield

GI

DECEMBER 2013

What’s in it for greenkeepers?

to the experience of playing in a

course, the aim is that it will add

more wildflower areas around the

Golf Club, said: “As we establish

greenkeeper at John O’ Gaunt

the worth of the Operation Pollina-

enthused and already convinced of

reason to promote continuous

management, and a valuable

importantly it provides a way of

‘rescue of the fescue’. Operation

matically obvious is the incentive

Caroline concludes: “If a club

them. “Our first priority is producing the best possible playing surface. That has really improved over recent seasons and is now looking better than ever, which gives us the chance to give extra attention to the Operation Pollinator areas.”

Although the course covers just 94 acres in total, Simon and Course Manager, Andy Baker, identified a number of areas where wildflower could be established without interfering with play, and still providing a visual enhancement to players’ rounds.

Andy added: “I believe our experience shows that Operation Pollinator could be incorporated onto every golf course, and would add a beneficial feature for the environment, the greenkeeping team and the players, as well as the golf industry as a whole.”
Endophytes: mutualistic associations between microorganisms and higher plants. An endophyte is a symbiont, typically a fungal or bacterial infection that lives within the plant. The association can be beneficial, antagonistic or neutral.

### Relationships

All plants have relationships and associations with animals, invertebrates, other plants, and microbes. This relationship or symbiosis can be beneficial, antagonistic or neutral. Turf diseases are a good example of an antagonistic association and conversely, mycorrhizal fungi could potentially open a new field of study.

### Defining an Endophyte

An endophyte is a symbiont, typically a fungal or bacterial infection that lives within the plant. Some endophytes spend part of their life within the plant, while others spend all their lifecycle within the plant. Mycorrhizae is described as an endophyte, however, this article focuses on the fungal-endophytes that spend their life in the aerial shoots and leaves.

### Grass-Endophyte Ecology & Sports Turf

The grass-endophyte symbiosis is not new knowledge. In wild grassland ecology there is a rich source of information discussing the relationship—good and bad.

At the moment sports turf endophyte research is limited, nevertheless, many of the grasses found in ecology and agricultural research are the commonly used in sports turf. So, from what we understand at the moment, there are around six different species of fungal-endophyte infecting UK sports turf species.

### Grass-Endophyte Ecology & Sports Turf

That is how they have the potential for infection, note we don’t have the data to suggest distribution or infection levels in UK sport’s turf just yet. These six species belong to one family of fungal endophyte—Clavicipitaceae.

A mycetocyte is a fungal form of an endophyte. Intraspecific competition is particularly common in endophytes. For example, some endophytes have the ability to run between infected and non-infected tissues, which infection is transmitted via the seed of the next generation. Intraspecific competition is a restraint on the growth of a species by another individual of the same species.

### The Justification of Endophyte Research in Sports Turf

Endophytes have been subject to many grassland, forage and ecology research studies mostly associated with the aspects of grass growth and development. Neotyphodium infection has been reported to have an effect on increased leaf area, tillering, root development, drought tolerance, pest resistance, nutrient deficient soil, and even an increased competitive ability against other intra-specific species. This suggests infected grasses are invasive in areas of non-infected broadleaf weeds and grasses. However, some studies show little to no effect of the infection, and there are some contradictions.

These complications could be related to the environmental conditions, grass species, the interacting endophyte species, and even the research methodology used. When these variables are combined with the fact that the symbiotic association between endophyte and host is changeable, difficulties arise.

The association can be beneficial (mutualistic) and in contrast, under other conditions it can be detrimental (parasitic), so it can be difficult to conclude the benefits or otherwise. Indeed the benefits of the association have to be interpreted in the context in which they are set. It’s not clear cut, these associations must be tested in a sports turf context to realise if the endophytes matter to the grasses and playing surfaces for sport.

### Endophyte Research Matters

Stateside, Rutgers University are slightly ahead of the game studying endophytes and sports turf (plate 3). Their research has seen a Neotyphodium-mediated resistance to Dollar Spot and Red Thread. Their research is leading to a greater understanding of the relationships, making decision-making in sports turf for the future.

### Quiz

1. Select the three correct reasons why endophytes could benefit sports turf?
2. Where is the evidence that endophytes in sports turf may be beneficial?
3. Is there any evidence of Poa annua being endophyte infected in UK sports turf? However, what species of endophyte could we expect to detect living within Poa annua?
4. What methods are being used to detect infection at the University of Central Lancashire and Myerscough College?
5. The immunoblot analysis of Neotyphodium, on page 46, shows endophyte-infected grasses.

###GLOSSARY

Endophyte Endo- meaning within and -Phyte meaning plants. Endophytes are typically fungal or bacterial, but not limited to virus or any other microbial infection within the plant. Endophytes areolate biotrophic. Example of a fungal endophyte is a family of fungi which consist of more than forty genera. Claviceps purpurea is an example commonly known as Ergot. This grass disease leaves blackened fungal parts extruding (sclerotia) from the inflorescence.

Alkaloid A naturally forming chemical compound. Toxic alkaloids are common in fungal-endophytes. These toxins can cause Ergotism when consumed by humans in cereals. Many beneficial drugs such as anti-cancer, anti-antiviral, anti-malarial, and even against pigeons are alkaloids. All are derived from endophytes, alkaloids.

Ecosystem A community of living organisms within an environment. Where both biotic and abiotic elements are considered to be linked through nutrient cycles and energy flows.

DNA Sequencing A process for determining the order of the nucleotide molecules specific to the DNA being analysed.

Neotyphodium Genera of fungal-endophytes, for which there are fourteen species. Reproduction by sexual or vertical means. Example species: N. lolii; Example host grasses: Festuca, Lolium, Bromus, Molinia, and Poa.

Claviceps Genera of fungal-endophyte, for which there are ten species. Reproduction by sexual or horizontal means (plaque formation). Its most common host grasses: Agrostis, Bromus, Daetilys, Elymus and Poa. Choke (Laetisaria fuciformis) and pink ergot (Claviceps purpurea) (Laetisaria fuciformis) and pink ergot (Claviceps purpurea) (Plate 3). These antagonistic endophyte research studies mostly associated with the aspects of grass growth and development. Neotyphodium infection has been reported to have an effect on increased leaf area, tillering, root development, drought tolerance, pest resistance, nutrient deficient soil, and even an increased competitive ability against other intra-specific species. This suggests infected grasses are invasive in areas of non-infected broadleaf weeds and grasses. However, some studies show little to no effect of the infection, and there are some contradictions. These complications could be related to the environmental conditions, grass species, the interacting endophyte species, and even the research methodology used. When these variables are combined with the fact that the symbiotic association between endophyte and host is changeable, difficulties arise. The association can be beneficial (mutualistic) and in contrast, under other conditions it can be detrimental (parasitic), so it can be difficult to conclude the benefits or otherwise. Indeed the benefits of the association have to be interpreted in the context in which they are set. It’s not clear cut, these associations must be tested in a sports turf context to realise if the endophytes matter to the grasses and playing surfaces for sport.

Endophyte Research Matters

Stateside, Rutgers University are slightly ahead of the game studying endophytes and sports turf (plate 3). Their research has seen a Neotyphodium-mediated resistance to Dollar Spot and Red Thread. Their research is leading to a greater understanding of the relationships, making decision-making in sports turf for the future.
Relationships

All plants have relationships and associations with animals, insects, brutes, other plants, and microbes. This relationship or symbiosis can be beneficial, antagonistic or neither. Turf diseases are a good example of an antagonistic association and, conversely, mycorrhizal fungi are a classic example of a beneficial relationship. In this article I want to introduce, or at least review a symbiosis which may be new to you; a clendestine microbe—the aboveground fungal-endophyte.

Greenskeeping, or sports turf management, is a skill requiring specialist training, education and an understanding of the balance between ecology, horticulture and agriculture. I want to discuss how microscopic fungi could potentially open up a new area of knowledge and broaden the understanding and fusion between ecology and sports turf. This area of microscopic interaction is already making progress in crop biotechnology and we are starting to see some early marketting for endophyte-infected seeds for the sports turf market already.

The truth is this type of microbe–interaction has been applied and used in turf and grassland management in other countries such as New Zealand for many years.

Defining an Endophyte

An endophyte is a symbiotic, typically a fungal or bacterial infection that lives within the plant. Some endophytes spend part of their life within the plant, while others spend all their lifecycle within the plant. Mycorrhiza is described as an endophyte, however, this article focuses on the fungal-endophytes that spend their life in the aerial shoots and leaves (plate 1 and 2).

Grass-Endophyte Ecology & Sports Turf

The grass-endophytes symbiosis is not new knowledge. In wild grassland ecology there is a rich source of information discussing the relationship—good and bad.

At the moment sports turf endophyte research is limited, nevertheless, many of the grasses found in ecology and agricultural research are the commonly used in sports turf. So, from what we understand at the moment, there are around six different species of fungal-endophyte infecting UK sports turf species.

That is they have the potential for infection, note we don’t have the data to suggest distribution or infection levels in UK sports turf just yet. These six species belong to first family of fungal endophyte - Clavicipitaceae.

A mycologist may be familiar with ergot and choke the pathogenic fungal infections found in grassland and pasture of rye-grass, cocks foot, tall fescue, red fescues, bent-grasses and purple moor grass.

These antagonistic endophyte infections are caused by Epichloë spp. and Claviceps purpurae. Neither of these present an obvious threat to sports turf surfaces, especially as they are diseases of the inflorescence. However, seed houses may have concerns over choke, especially as it is known to castrate some turf species. Interestingly, for sports turf there is one prominent fungal-endophyte of significance—Neotyphodium spp., a derivative of Epichloë spp., for which infection is transmitted via the seed of the next generation. Importantly, this means there are no signs of disease or the associated outward visible growing fungal parts, such as aecidia or conidia. So this type of endophyte (Neotyphodium) typical to our sports turf species is asymptomatic, hence its secretive infection.

The Justification of Endophyte Research in Sports Turf

Endophytes have been subject to many grassland, forage and ecology research studies mostly associated with the aspects of grass growth and development.

Neotyphodium infection has been reported to have an effect on increased leaf area, tillering, root development, drought tolerance, pest resistance, nutrient deficient soil, and even an increased competitive ability against inter and intra-specific species. This suggests infected grasses are invasive in areas of non-infected broadleaf weeds and grasses. However, some studies show little to no effect of the infection, and there are some contraintutions.

These complications could be related to the environmental conditions, grass species, the interacting endophytes species, and even the research methodology used. When these variables are combined with the fact that the symbiotic association between endophyte and host is changeable, difficulties arise.

The association can be beneficial (mutualistic) and in contrast, under other conditions it can be detrimental (parasitic), so it can be difficult to conclude the benefits or otherwise. Indeed the benefits of the association have to be interpreted for the context in which they are set. It’s not clear cut, these associations must be tested in a sports turf context to realise if the endophytes matter to the grasses and playing surfaces for sport.

Endophyte Research Matters

Stateside, Rutgers University are slightly ahead of the game studying endophytes and sports turf (plate 3). Their research has seen a Neotyphodium endophyte-mediated resistance to Dollar Spot and Red Thread disease in Kentucky bluegrass. Within New Zealand, James Hutton Institute and the University of Otago are studying the effects of fungal endophytes on golf courses. University of Canterbury have studied endophytes in sports turf and are starting to see some early marketting for endophyte-infected seeds for the sports turf market already.

Endophytes are a naturally occurring fungal or bacteria symbiont that grows within the host plant, typically grasses: Agrostis, Bromus, Dactylis, Elymus and Poa. They house blackened fungal parts extruding (aecidia) from within the host plant. The truth is this type of microbe–interaction has been applied and used in turf and grassland management in other countries such as New Zealand for many years. Mycorrhiza (a mutualistic association between root and fungi). Grasses typical form associations with root fungi. Grasses: Agrostis, Bromus, Dactylis, Elymus and Poa.

Interspecific competition between different species.

Intraspecific competition Competition between the same species.

The basal part of the grass. Leaves surround the stem in multiple layers.

The flower head of grasses. An aggregation of flowers on the stem.

The flower of grasses. An aggregation of flowers on the stem.

Mueltisite A beneficial association for both host and endophyte.

Parasite A beneficial association for symbiont organism or parasite. Causes harm, not necessarily death.

Biotecology Loosely means; applying technology that uses a biological system, living organism, or derivative whether modified or not.

Propionocarpe Active ingredient of a broad-spectrum fungicide. Example, Syngenta’s Banner Maxx to control pathogens. A beneficial association for symbiont organism or parasite. Causes harm, not necessarily death.

Active ingredient of a broad-spectrum fungicide. Example, Syngenta’s Banner Maxx to control pathogens. A beneficial association for symbiont organism or parasite. Causes harm, not necessarily death.

Glossary

Endophyte Endo- meaning within and -phyte meaning plant. Endophytes are typically fungal or bacterial. But not limited to viral or any other microbial interaction within the plant. Endophytes are obligate biotrophs. Chloropeptide A family of fungi which consist of more than forty genera. Claviceps purpurea is an example, commonly known as Ergot. This grass disease leaves blackened fungal parts extruding (aecidia) from within the host plant. The truth is this type of microbe–interaction has been applied and used in turf and grassland management in other countries such as New Zealand for many years. Mycorrhiza (a mutualistic association between root and fungi). Grasses typical form associations with root fungi. Grasses: Agrostis, Bromus, Dactylis, Elymus and Poa.

Electron Scanning Microscope image, on page 46, shows endophyte-infected grass hyphae threading intercellularly stained blue with endophytic vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizae.
Thread in red tissues. Potentially we could be unearthing a biotechnological answer for the future of sustainable turf disease management. But, there is no evidence to suggest endophytes benefit UK sports turf.

While we interpret the benefits we must also understand the relationship being changeable. For example, it has been discovered that a Neotyphodium sp. can prevent wilt during drought; however, following the drought period the infection becomes parasitic diverting the plants resources for its own survival weakening the plant to further stress.

Another example is the hastening of the grass’s maturity. There is some evidence to suggest endophyte-infected plants die prematurely. Possibly not an issue with an over-seeding regime, but we can assume a weakening of the sword that could be susceptible to the threats of disease, pests and weeds.

Also there is evidence that alkaloid producing endophytes have the ability to deter pests such as the Argentine stem weevil in New Zealand, however there is no evidence the effect would be similar in UK sports turf against pests such as Rosethus.

But, there is no evidence to suggest endophyte-infected plants die prematurely. Possibly not an issue with an over-seeding regime, but we can assume a weakening of the sword that could be susceptible to the threats of disease, pests and weeds.

Another example is the hastening of the grass’s maturity. There is some evidence to suggest endophyte-infected plants die prematurely. Possibly not an issue with an over-seeding regime, but we can assume a weakening of the sword that could be susceptible to the threats of disease, pests and weeds.

Also there is evidence that alkaloid producing endophytes have the ability to deter pests such as the Argentine stem weevil in New Zealand, however there is no evidence the effect would be similar in UK sports turf against pests such as Rosethus.
as chafer grubs or even parasitic nematodes.

After all, many of the cool-season turf grasses have evolved in northern Europe with the endophytes and the associated turf feeding invertebrates.

It is reasonable to hypothesise that the pests could be unaffected by the toxins, without the testing we would not know.

Similarly for nematodes, it is only a limited species of endophyte that produces the alkaloids that have the anti-biological toxins to resist invertebrate herbivores.

There are many species of endophytes, it may be a case that certain endophyte infections hold beneficial traits against herbivorous insects while other species are ineffective.

Even so there needs to be an understanding of endophytes in our surfaces.

The understanding or management of endophytes will need introducing as a new area of knowledge in sports turf.

A good example is the storage of seed; infection in the seed will only survive for around a year stored at 21°C, however it is reported to persist for a decade stored at 4°C. Moreover, there is an issue with the application of commonly used broad-spectrum fungicides eradicating the infection, particularly by Propiconazole.

Endophyte infected cultivars are starting to appear in sports turf management and quite possibly managers are starting in earnest to incorporate these endophytes into the turf with good intentions.

However, they could be unwittingly removing the endophyte with a fungicide application (unproven, but theoretically possible).

**Current Research for Sports turf**

Myerscough College and the University of Central Lancashire are investigating potential sustainable methods for sports turf management and the understanding of endophytes in UK sports turf, nevertheless, we need to know more about their ecology and our sports turf management towards them.

**Acknowledgement: Dr Andy Owen (Myerscough College)**

**Bio-inspired explosive performance**

The exciting new fungicide inspired by nature. Contact+ action delivers fast knockdown of Fusarium in leaf and thatch along with outstanding long-lasting protection. Visit www.greencast.co.uk for more information.
BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.
BIIGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training.
The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers’ Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper.

This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards.

This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

There are now a number of GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers identified by the GTC Quality Assured logo.

If you would like further information, contact the GTC on:

BIIGA
01347 833800
sami@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk
Mainline College

Horsell, Guildford, Surrey GU3 2PE www.mainlinecollege.ac.uk
Contact: Philip Taylor 01483 278153, philip.taylor@mainlinecollege.ac.uk

Full time courses on offer include Level 2 in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf. In addition we provide on-demand work-based apprenticeships at Levels 2 and 3. Management and Horticulture throughout the South East.


Plumpton College

Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Nr Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE. 01273 890454 www.plumpton.ac.uk


For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 561500.
GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk
All the latest news from your Section, in your new-look notes pages...

Scotland

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

Events Coming Up

Central

Our seminar at Auchterarder Golf Club is on 10 December. At the time of writing 20 of the 50 available spaces have already been booked and registration only opened 3 days ago so that's a good sign.

Our thanks to Auchterarder GC for the use of their facilities and to the speakers who have given of their time to support us.

The 2014 golf outings are confirmed as Kinghorn GC on Tuesday 29 April and Dunfermline GC on Tuesday 9 September.

East

Social night booked for Friday 13 December at The Comedy Club, The Stand in Edinburgh, doors open at 7pm with the show starting at 9pm, cost of entry £12.

If you are interested in coming along to a great night and having a few laughs then please contact Jamie Martin (jamie.martin77@sky.com or 07982 954254) to book your place.

Thanks to Sponsors

East

Thanks go to Everiiss for the Lunch provided at the AGM, your support is much appreciated by the section indeed.

Welcome New Members

Amanda Dorans Assistant Greenkeeper Dundonald Links Golf Club; Andrew Wentworth Assistant Greenkeeper West Kilbreek Golf Club; Gary Hamilton Student; Sean Harkness Greenkeeper Renaissance Club; Andrew Pettie Affiliate Member; Michael Skinner Assistant Greenkeeper Boat of Garten Golf Club.
Central

East

Gordon.moir@centralayrshire.com

as Chairman.

mittee at the AGM where Bob Meikle is beginning his second year

at 9pm, cost of entry £12.

29 April and Dunfermline GC on Tuesday 9 September.

booked and registration only opened 3 days ago so that's a good

time of writing 20 of the 50 available spaces have already been

for Around the green...

Contact your Section correspondent with news,

events or anything else for Around the green...

Events Coming Up

North East

We have organised a course walk at Ramside golf club to look at the

new holes this will take place on 11 December check Facebook and

Twitter pages for details.

News

North Wales

The Christmas tournament and section AGM took place at Royal

Liverpool on 25 November however the December magazine goes to

print too early to have a write up in this month and news from the

AGM.

We are also gauging interest in running a coach to BTME on 22

January.

Our section is now trying text message alerts and if your mobile is

registered with RGBG you should have already received an opt out

message, we hope you find this new service helpful.

Northern

Myself, Dave Collins and Simon Rothwell had the pleasure of

representing the section in the Whitemoss sponsored intersection

competition at the lovely Lyman Golf Club.

Great day had by all but unfortunately we could not retain the trophy

we won last year. 3rd place was a pretty good effort but we were beaten

by a very fine performance from the boys from Sheffield.

Well done chaps. Special mention to Sandra for the organisation of the
day.

North East

Huge congratulations to David Thompson of Henham GC who has

been awarded an R&A scholarship

News from Wayne Reid at Intraining, part of Newcastle College

Group. They offer both level 2 and level 1 Work-based Diplomas and

Apprenticeships in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.

They work with many Golf Clubs around the North East.

For further details contact Wayne Reid on 07725150834 or email at

wayne.reid@inttraining.co.uk.

Sheffield

All the committee would like to thank all the members for
attending golf days and seminars over the last year. The
Sheffield section would like to thank all the sponsors for
doing this years events and also the golf clubs for letting us
use their courses Bombay, Dore & Todley, Hillsborough
and also Worknol for the Christmas golf day. We hope you
all have a nice Christmas and a good new year.

All the Sheffield Section are sorry to hear of the passing
of Stewart Clayton, Managing Director of Greensman and
long-term member of RGBGA. He was well known to many
in the Section and we would all like to pass our condolences
to his family and friends at this sad time.

Movers and shakers

North Wales

On 1 October Oswestry GC promoted their Deputy Head Greenkeeper Gary Barnfield to Head Greenkeeper and also

in October Gary completed 25 years service at Oswestry.

Northern

Congratulations to John Osborne on his appointment at

Baileyton Golf Club.

Welcome New Members

Stephens Virtue Greenkeeper Percy Wood Golf & Country

Retreat; Paul Smith Head Greenkeeper Glossop & District

Golf Club; Paul Keranuy Assistant Greenkeeper Heaton Moor Golf Club; Aaron Gandy Assistant Greenkeeper Turton Golf Club; Vincent Irvan Greenkeeper Hurilton Hall Golf & Country Club; John Eckersall Assistant Greenkeeper Turton Golf Club; Graham Capewell Affiliate Hesswall Golf Club; Tom Deighton Student Askham Bryan College; William Goldstone Greenkeeper Moor Allerton Golf Club; David Goldstone Affiliate Tower Sport Ltd t/a Amenity Sales; Connor Foster Greenkeeper Barnsley Golf Club; Richard Peate Assistant Greenkeeper Oswestry Golf Club; Harry Kemp Greenkeeper Eastham Lodge Golf Club.

Notes

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

There are at least two Section members who have received R&A

scholarships that I am aware of, Robert McDowell and Stephen


Congratulations to David Thompson of Henham GC who has

been awarded an R&A scholarship.

News from Wayne Reid at Intraining, part of Newcastle College

Group. They offer both level 2 and level 1 Work-based Diplomas and

Apprenticeships in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.

They work with many Golf Clubs around the North East.

For further details contact Wayne Reid on 07725150834 or email at

wayne.reid@inttraining.co.uk.

Your notes

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.
Movers and Shakers

East Midlands

The only personnel change I am aware of at the time of this issue is that after almost five years at Forest Hill Golf Club, I shall be moving on to take up the position of Course Manager at Gainsborough Golf Club. This represents a very exciting opportunity for me in terms of my career and the challenge that my appointment there represents. My predecessor, John Evison, spent almost twenty years in the role before retiring earlier this year and I shall endeavour to keep up the high standards that he set.

Results

Mid Anglia

Our Autumn Tournament was held at North Warwickshire Golf Club on 16 October with 21 competitors. Despite the weather restricting the day to 9 holes, the course was presented beautifully by Course Manager John Ganley and his team.

The results of the day were: 1 Chris Woodall 22pts, 2 Ed Stainton 18, 3 Alex Brogan 16. As always many thanks to North Warwickshire for allowing us the use of the course for the day, especially the Captain Martin Higginson who was a charming host.

East Midlands

Lutterworth Golf Club on 31 October saw Carl Chamberlain (Rigby Taylor), Aas English and Derek Foster return a net score of 61 to beat Matt Gillis (Farols), Nigel Colley and James Burberry with a 62 into the silver medal position. The podium was completed by James Moor (Farols), Derek McJannett and Greg Skinner with a score of 62.8. Longest Drive was won by James Burberry and Andy Lane (Countywide) with Nearest The Pin won by Andy Marsh and Nick Ashman (John Deere). John Barr, Andy Lane (Countrywide) with Nearest The Pins won by James Burberry and Andy Lane (Countywide) with Nearest The Pin won by Andy Marsh and Nick Ashman (John Deere), John Barr, Course Manager, and his team presented the course to a very high standard and did so after a substantial amount of rainfall over the previous few days.

AGM news: Carl Chamberlain of Rigby Taylor stepped down after several years of representing the trade to the AGM Committee and Matt Gillis of Farols was elected. I would like to thank Carl, on behalf of the section, for all his efforts and support that he has shown the section committee over the last few years. In addition Nigel White was also voted on to with part of his remit to help our RA, Sandra Raper, develop membership numbers within the section. Other than this all other committee members and officers were voted back on with no change to their roles.

East of England

Spalding Golf Club 16th October - a rather poor turnout for the section AGM and golf day. 1 Rob Welford, 2 Bruce Hicks, 3 Ben Bennetley, 4 Russell Moody. Trade Gary Cooper.

Well done to Graeme Macdonald, Rob Bennent and Rob Welford for winning the Midland Region inter section trophy for the fourth time in five years. A superb 107 points tally including an impressive 40 point total from Graeme helped secure the win by a large margin. Well done again.

Sponsors

Mid Anglia

A massive thanks goes to ALS, Farmura, Avoncrop Amenity, Antech Amenity, Tuckwell Machinery, Yasgoor Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd and Headland Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section which has made our section run successfully in 2013.

Bankers Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

Mid Anglia

Many thanks to Campy Turf Care Systems, the prize sponsor for the Autumn Tournament at North Warwickshire. The augmented support is most appreciated. Also thanks to Whitewaseco, Sherff Turf Amenity and Countywide for their nearby the pin donations. Finally thanks as always to Parrys Matt Gilkes and Kev Pugh for the drinks and snacks on the 1st tee.

Now we come to our ever faithful sponsors of our Section’s fine calendar. I would like to apologise to Countywide for not mentioning them last month, but you can still contact Andy Lane, Turf & Amenity Specialist on 07774 416429 or Email: alan@countywidefarmers.co.uk.

This month’s sponsor is Rigby Taylor and our old friend Tony Stilton ‘Chesie’ he can be contacted on: 07778 665306 or email t.chesie@rigbytaylor.com, please consider them for your fertiliser and chemical requirements.

East Midlands

Our thanks to Parrys for their generous sponsorship of the AGM competition and the quality prizes they supplied. In addition to this Mark Chamberlain of Tacit kindly organised the Longest Drives and Nearest The Pin prizes.

As ever, all trade representatives, either new or retires, are always thanked for their support of our section events. This is either by their direct sponsorship, their presence or prizes donated at events. Thank you.

East of England

Many thanks to all at Spalding Golf Club for their hospitality. Also to Steve Clarke and his staff for providing an excellent course despite the horrendous weather conditions limiting us to only 13 holes. This did however allow Steve and company to get away in time for his M People concert! Thanks also go to Nigel Lovatt from Toro and Chris Sellars of Chris Sellars Groundcare for sponsoring the day and their continued support of the section.

Thanks again to White Moss Eco for sponsoring the inter section trophy. Thanks to all at Ashridge Golf Club for the course and hospitality afterwards.

Welcome New Members


Events Coming Up

Mid Anglia

As the nights draw in and the temperature goes down we are getting ever closer to the animal pilgrimage to HTME. Hoping to see many from the section. Above all it is good to catch up with some old friends and learn something new at the same time.

East of England

Our Christmas Treasurers Dinner will be held this year at Lincoln Golf Club (Torksey) on Friday December 13. Please contact Bruce Hicks for details and to book places.

News

Mid Anglia

BIGGA Mid Anglia Section would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

East of England

The Section AGM followed the golf at North Warwickshire. Your Committee and officers were voted back on with no change to their roles. Other than this Nigel White retired earlier this year and I shall endeavour to keep up the high standards that he set.

Results

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

Mid Anglia

As the nights draw in and the temperature goes down we are getting ever closer to the animal pilgrimage to BTME. Hoping to see many from the section meeting is always good with catch up with some old friends and learn something new at the same time.

East of England

Our Christmas Treasurers scramble meeting will be held this year at Lincoln Golf Club (Torksey) on Friday December 13. Please contact Bruce Hicks for details and to book places.

News

Mid Anglia

BIGGA Mid Anglia Section would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

East of England

At the AGM the committee and all positions remained the same. The section reported a slight loss but that was mainly down to a donation to the Midlands region and seminar expenses.

A seminar is planned for Newark in the Spring and work is underway to fill the future list. A possible away day is also being planned. Thanks went to everyone for their continued support.

Mid Anglia

The Section AGM followed the golf at North Warwickshire. Your committee for the next 12 months are: President – John Hammond, Chairman – Ed Staint, Secretary – Andy Smith, Competitions & Deputy Chairman – Rhys Thomas, Treasurer – Steve Thompson, Committee – N. Tyler, K. Pugh, K. Williams.

Love me or loathe me, I am the product of my Father. He has just had a “one night lie in”. Good night you old berk.

Movers and Shakers

East Midlands

The only personnel change I am aware of at the time of this article is that after almost five years at Forest Hill Golf Club, I shall be moving on to take up the position of Course Manager at Gainsborough Golf Club. This represents a very exciting opportunity for me in terms of my career and the challenge that my appointment there represents. My predecessor, John Bostock, spent almost twenty years in the role before retiring earlier this year and I shall endeavour to keep up the high standards that he set.

Results

Midland

Our Autumn Tournament was held at North Warwickshire Golf Club on 16 October with 21 competitors. Despite the weather restricting the day to 9 holes, the course was presented beautifully by Course Manager John Ganey and his team.

The results of the day were: 1 Ciaran Woodall 22pts, 2 Ed Staint 18, 3 Alex Brougham 16. As always many thanks to North Warwickshire for allowing us the use of the course for the day, especially the Captain Martin Higginson who was a charming host.

East Midlands

Lutterworth Golf Club on 31 October saw Carl Chamberlain (Righty Taylor), Aas English and Derek Futter return a nett score of 61 to beat Matt Gillas (Farola), Nigel Colley and James Burberry with a 62 into the silver medal position. The podium was completed by James Moore (Farola), Derek McJuanett and Greg Skinner with a score of 62.8. Longest Drives were won by James Burberry and Andy Lane (Countywide) with Nearest The Pin won by Andy Marsh and Nick Ashman (John Deer), John Barr, Course Manager, and his teams presented the course to a very high standard and did so after a substantial amount of rainfall over the previous few days.

AGM news: Carl Chamberlain of Righty Taylor stepped down after several years of representing the trade on the East Midlands Committee and Matt Gillas of Farola was voted on. I would like to thank Carl, on behalf of the section, for all his efforts and support that he has shown the section committee over the last few years. In addition Nigel White was also voted on with part of his remit to help our RA, Sandra Raper, develop membership numbers within the section. Other than this all other committee members and officers were voted back on with no change to their roles.

East of England

Spalding Golf Club 16th October - a rather poor turnout for the section AGM and golf day. 1 Rob Welldon, 2 Bruce Hicks, 3 Ben Bewley including an eagle 2 at the 10th, 4 Russ Moody. Trade Guy Cooper.

Well done to Graeme Macnaulod, Rob Bemment and Rob Welldon for winning the Midland Region inter section trophy in three years. A superb 107 points tally went to everyone for their continued support.

Sponsors

Mid Anglia

A massive thanks goes to ALS, Farmura, Avonroc Amenity, Antichem Amenity, Tuckwell Machinery, Yasgrog Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd and Headland Amenity for your continuing support and support towards the Mid Anglia Section which has made our section run successfully in 2013.

Headland Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

Midland

Many thanks to Campey Turf Care Systems, the prize sponsor for the Autumn Tournament at North Warwickshire. The azimuthed support is most appreciated.

Also thanks to Whitewater Eco, Sherffill Amenity and Countywide for their near the pin donations. Finally thanks as always to Parus’ Matt Gilkes and Ken Pugh for the drinks and snacks on the 1st tee.

Now we come to our ever faithful sponsors of our section’s fine calendar. I would like to apologise to Countywide for not mentioning them last month, but you can still contact Andy Lane, Turf & Amenities Specialist on 07774 416429 or Email: skane@countywidefarmers.co.uk.

This month’s sponsors is Righty Taylor and our old friend Tony ‘Stilton’ Cheese, he can be contacted on: 07778 665306 or e-mail tcheese@rigbytaylor.com, please consider them for your fertiliser and chemical requirements.

East Midlands

Our thanks to Parus for their generous sponsorship of the AGM competition and the quality prizes they supplied. In addition to this Mark Chamberlain of Tactic kindly organised the Longest Drives and Nearest The Pin prizes.

As ever, all trade representatives, either present or resident are always thanked for their support of our section events. This is either by their direct sponsorship, their presence or prizes donated at events. Thank you.

East of England

Many thanks to all at Spalding Golf Club for their hospitality. Also to Steve Clarke and his staff for providing an excellent course despite the horrendous weather conditions limiting us to only 13 holes. This did however allow Steve Hopkins to get away in time for his M People concert! Thanks also go to Nigel Lowatt from Toro and Chris Sellars of Chris Sellars Groundcare for sponsoring the day and their continued support of the section.

Thanks again to White Moss Eco for sponsoring the inter section trophy. Thanks to all at Ashridge Golf Club for the course and hospitality afterwards.

Welcome New Members


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

South Wales
Friday 13 December we head to Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, it’s well done Joe for your hard work and ongoing support.

South East
A final reminder about our Section Christmas Tournament on 19 December, please note that this event will be held at Cotswold Hills Golf Club. Bacon rolls from 9.30, tee times from 10. Many thanks to Wayne Vincent for his assistance in organising this event.

South Coast
South Coast Turkey Trot, Weybrook Park GC 10 December, if you haven’t yet booked contact Tony on greenkeeper@gmail.com.

Results

South Wales
Results from Machynys Peninsula GC: 1 Rhys McDonagh 32, 2 Jamie Probert 31, 3 Big D 30. Longest Drive Ian Kinley. Nearest the pin Jamie Probert 31, 3 Big D 30. Best Gross Jamie Probert 31. Thanks to Marcus Weaver and his staff for the fantastic presentation of the course and holding our autumn tournament & AGM.

South Coast
Tournament & AGM.

Thanks to Sponsors

South Wales
Sponsors for the half day seminar and AGM were Countrywide, many thanks to them.

South West
Special thanks to all of our Section Patrons for their ongoing support: EcoSol, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide and Farnura.

Welcome New Members

Gavin Rogerson Assistant Greenkeeper Kendleshire Golf Club; Seamus Moriarty Deputy Head Greenkeeper Basingstoke Golf Club; Eduardo Vargas Greenkeeper Celtic Manor Resort South Wales; Thomas Frampton Assistant Greenkeeper Moelais Castle Golf Club. International: Goran Hansson Affiliate Swedish Golf Federation.

Website: www.bmycharity.com/hardroadtoharrogate

Online Safety Management System

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System (SMS) provides:

- All golf clubs with Golf Industry Standard Risk Assessments.
- All golf clubs with a SMS tailored to their needs.
- Golf Club Managers with practical help to meet their legal obligations.
- Prevention of avoidable accidents.
- Meet the best standards of the golf industry.
- Reduce the costs.

Besides an SMS Policy, there are seven key areas to be considered when developing a full SMS at a golf club:

1. Greenkeeping activities
2. Maintenance facility
3. Golf course
4. Clubhouse
5. Kitchen
6. Pro shop
7. Fire safety

Within each of these areas, users can access the following downloadable documents:

- Risk Profile (available in word and excel formats)
- Risk Assessments relevant to that area of the golf club
- Hazards - information and weblinks

For further information contact:

BIGGA 01934 641166
GCMA 01347 833800

www.bigga.org.uk
www.gcma.org.uk
Events Coming Up

South Wales
Friday 13 December we head to Pyle & Kerbit Golf Club, let’s hope it’s not unlucky.

South West
A final reminder about our Section Christmas Tournament on 19 December, please note that this event will be held at Cotswold Hills Golf Club. Bacon rolls from 9.30, tee times from 10. Many thanks to Wayne Vincent for his assistance in organising this event.

South Coast
South Coast Turkey Trot, Weybrook Park GC 10 December, if you haven’t yet booked contact Tony on greenkeeper@gmail.com.

Results

South Wales
Results from Machynys Peninsula GC: 1 Rhys McDonagh 32, 2 Jamie Probert 31, 3 Big D 30. Longest Drive Ian Kinley. Nearest the pin well done Joe for your hard work and ongoing support.

South West
Once again the section will be sponsoring a place to attend HTME in January 2014 to include accommodation, transport and education. Please contact any of the committee members to express your interest in this fantastic opportunity.

Finally, we are in the process of updating our contact details for all South West section members, it would be huge help if all section members were to drop me a quick email to confirm your name and email address.

Thanks to Sponsors

South Coast
Special thanks to all of our Section Patrons for their ongoing support: EcoSol, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura.

News

South Wales
The section has sponsored Greg Williams to attend HTME, don’t forget to book your place.

Our recent tour of the Millennium Stadium was very informative. A big thanks to Craig Campbell for giving us an insight of the complex.

A huge thank you to Peter Holmstrom for his support and correspondence on Around The Green, well done mate.

Welcome New Members

Gavin Rogerson Assistant Greenkeeper Kendleshire Golf Club;
Seamus Moriarty Deputy Head Greenkeeper Baasingstoke Golf Club;
Eduardo Vargas Greenkeeper Celtic Manor Resort Sout Wales;
Thomas Frampton Assistant Greenkeeper Morfaen Castle Golf Club.
International: Goran Hansson Affiliate Swedish Golf Federation.

International: Thomas Frampton Assistant Greenkeeper Kendleshire Golf Club;
Richard Robinson Assistant Greenkeeper Celtic Manor Resort South Wales;
Tom Hampton Assistant Greenkeeper Morfaen Castle Golf Club.
International: Goran Hansson Affiliate Swedish Golf Federation.

A warm welcome to Tracey Harvey our new Regional Administrator.
This month Jake Waite from Bridgwater College explains his education vision and discusses the question ‘What makes a great Head Greenkeeper?’

During BTME 2013 the GTC invited its Quality Assured Centre sports turf representatives to meet with Quality Assured Training Providers. This was designed to encourage sharing of human and physical resources between Centres and Providers.

The event proved very successful and David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, is continually hearing excellent examples of its QA Training Providers being invited to QA Centres both to share specialist subject knowledge and in some situations equipment and machinery.

David explained: ‘Many companies and their knowledgeable staff would love to support and contribute more but until the introduction of the GTC Quality Assured Scheme in 2010 it was impossible for companies to support the many colleges and private companies offering sports turf courses and qualifications.

‘However, now with a limited number of QA Centres – two in Scotland, two in Wales and six in England - it is now far easier to develop a strong Centre – Training Provider partnership.

‘QA Centres offer the formal government accredited qualifications however they are also best placed to complement these courses with specialist short-courses, workshops and seminars.’

David invited Jake Waite, Sports Turf Trainer/Assessor at GTC’s Quality Assured Centre, Bridgwater College, Cannington Centre to explain his Centre’s vision on how best to provide both formal and informal education and training courses, workshops and seminars to best suit employers and sports turf students needs with input from QA Training Providers and guest presenters.

Here are Jake’s views:

What makes a great Head Greenkeeper?

I would propose that the lines are becoming increasingly blurred. ‘You live and die on the quality of your greens’ used to be the mantra but with the development of the game and the increasing complexities involved in consistently managing a golf course, is it still enough just to deliver consistently high quality surfaces? It would be nice to be able to say ‘yes’ to this but is that still really the answer?

I am not suggesting for a minute that the hard earned knowledge and ability that goes into presenting your golf course is in any way redundant but how often have you found yourself thinking ‘I used to be a greenkeeper, now I’m an Admin/Communications expert/Finance and Human Resources manager as well!’ With this being the case, how can you ensure that you still have the skills to meet the challenge?

For those entering our industry as apprentices, for assistants with specialist subject knowledge and ability that goes into presenting your golf course is it still enough just to say ‘yes’ to this but is that still really the answer?

We have worked closely with Laurence Pithie from Turf Master and some of the most experienced and well travelled.

As one of the GTC’s quality assured training centres, here at Bridgwater College’s Cannington Centre our primary focus is to ensure that all these groups receive the training they require. We still feel that the Work Based L2 and L3 Diplomas (formerly known as NVQs) offer the best solution both for the student and the employer, offering as they do a combination of real on-job experience and underpinning knowledge delivered in the classroom environment.

However, for those who have achieved a more senior level and for those ready to make a step up, the available routes are sometimes less obvious.

There are excellent options for further and higher levels of study and these programmes have helped drive the standards within our industry to higher and higher levels, but in the increasingly pressured working environments which managers and supervisors find themselves in, the time commitment involved can prove to be a significant obstacle.

Yes, how can we address this training shortfall without having to use up too much of this precious commodity?

An excellent means of continuing your professional and personal development is to carry out a SWOT analysis of current abilities and then target events and short courses that meet the shortfalls you have identified. This may be by approaching your local college, through BBGAA’s excellent Continue to Learn programme at BTME, through regional seminars and workshops or GTC events.

The workshop model in particular provides an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, discuss techniques and share best practice with your peers in an interactive environment.

Earlier this year we ran the first in a series of workshops entitled “Smarter Greenkeeping”. Guest speakers at the first session were Laurence Pithie from Turf Master One training and Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club and former BBGAA Chairman.

The first workshop covered all aspects of bunker renovation and maintenance, using various case studies as examples and their personal experience which spans over 70 years in the business.

The second workshop focused on how greenkeepers can be more influential in the workplace and how presentations for capital expenditure can be made more effectively.

We have worked closely with Laurence in developing future topics for the series.

Our upcoming events are:

- 12 December 2013 Greens Performance
- 13 February 2014 Greens Planning & Budgeting
- 13 March 2014 Managing with less

In addition to Laurence’s input, we will also look to incorporate both other GTC Quality Assured Training Providers and some of the local talents.

Here in the south west of the country we are blessed in having some of the most experienced and knowledgeable minds in the industry (we are after all in Jim Arthur’s parish). It is a tribute to the industry in which we work in that these busy people are so willing to give their time to share their experience and best practice.

For course enquiries contact Helen Goodland Goodlandh@bridgwater.ac.uk or Tel: 07753 311160

To register on workshops contact Jane Wagner, Commercial Manager, Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies, Bridgwater College, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA4 5LA.

WAGNERJ@bridgwater.ac.uk Tel: 01278 655065 Mobile: 07917 475641
This month Jake Waite from Bridgwater College explains his education vision and discusses the question “What makes a great Head Greenkeeper?”

During BTME 2013 the GTC invited its Quality Assured Centre sports turf representatives to meet with Quality Assured Training Providers. This was designed to encourage sharing of human and physical resources between Centres and Providers.

The event proved very successful and David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, is constantly hearing excellent examples of its QA Training Providers being invited to QA Centres both to share specialist subject knowledge and in some situations equipment and machinery.

David explained: “Many companies and their knowledgeable staff would love to support and contribute more but until the introduction of the GTC Quality Assured Scheme in 2010 it was impossible for companies to support the many colleges and private companies offering sports turf courses and qualifications.

“However, now with a limited number of QA Centres - two in Scotland, two in Wales and six in England - it is now far easier to develop a strong Centre - Training Provider partnership.

“QA Centres offer the formal government accredited qualifications however they are also best placed to supplement these courses with specialist short-courses, workshops and seminars.”

David invited Jake Waite, Sports Turf Trainer/Assessor at GTC’s Quality Assured Centre, Bridgwater College, Cannington Centre to explain his Centre’s vision on how they are looking to build on it and for those who have aspirations to be the next generation of Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers, the training paths remain familiar and well travelled.

As one of the GTC’s quality assured training centres, here at Bridgwater College’s Cannington Centre the primary focus is to ensure that all these groups receive the training they require. We still feel that the Work Based L2 and L3 Diplomas (formerly known as NVQs) offer the best solution both for the student and the employer, offering them a combination of real on-job experience and underpinning knowledge delivered in the classroom or workplace.

However, for those who have achieved a more senior level and for those ready to make a step up, the available routes are sometimes less obvious.

There are excellent options for further and higher levels of study and these programmes have helped drive the standards within our industry to higher and higher levels, but in the increasingly pressurised working environments which managers and supervisors find themselves in, the time commitment involved can prove to be a significant obstacle.

So, how can we address this training shortfall without having to use up too much of this precious commodity?

An excellent means of continuing your professional and personal development is to carry out a SWOT analysis of your current abilities and then target events and short courses that meet the shortfalls you have identified. This may be by approaching your local college, through BIGGA’s excellent Continue to Learn programme at BTME, through regional seminars and workshops or GTC events.

The workshop model in particular provides an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, discuss techniques and share best practice with your peers in an interactive environment.

Earlier this year we ran the first in a series of workshops entitled “Smarter Greenkeeping”. Guest speakers at the first session were Laurence Pithie from Turf Master One training and Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club and former BIGGA Chairman.

The first workshop covered all aspects of bunker renovation and maintenance, using various case studies as examples and their personal experience which spans over 70 years in the business.

The second workshop focused on how greenkeepers can be more influential in the workplace and how presentations for capital expenditure can be made more effectively.

We have worked closely with Laurence in developing future topics for the series.

Our upcoming events are:

12 December 2013 Greene Performance 13 February 2014 Planning & Budgeting
13 March 2014 Managing with less

In addition to Laurence’s input, we will also look to incorporate both other GTC Quality Assured Training Providers and some of the local talent! Here in the south west of the country we are blessed in having some of the most experienced and knowledgeable minds in the industry (we are after all in Jim Arthur’s parish). It is a tribute to the industry in which we work in that these busy people are so willing to give their time to share their experience and best practice.

For course enquiries contact Helen Goodland Goodlandh@bridgwater.ac.uk or Tel: 07753 311160
To register on workshops contact Jane Wagner, Commercial Manager, Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies, Bridgwater College, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA4 2LA.
WAGNERJ@bridgwater.ac.uk 01278 655065 Mobile 07917 475641
Gripclad Ltd have developed an affordable very long term solution which instantly eliminates slip hazards on railway sleepers and all types of timber steps and decking using GRP Composite CLEATS.

What they say...

“Highly recommend Gripclad for first class products and fast efficient service” – Gail Carpenter, MD Southport Golf Academy

“It is truly non-slip, easy to install and we are proud to endorse their product” – Simon Newland, Club Secretary, Enville Golf Club

“This product makes the steps easy and safe to walk on in all conditions” – Jonathan Wood, Course Manager, Hillside Golf Club

“The overall wear tolerance is excellent. I would recommend Gripclad to any golf club with slippery surface issues” – Scott Aitchinson, Deputy Course Manager, Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Avoid Slip Hazard liabilities by preventing them in the first place.

For free advice and information call
Gripclad Ltd
Tel: 023 8040 6796
Contact
Barry Eagle
hazards on railway sleepers and all which instantly eliminates slip

What they say...

First place.

Dornoch Golf Club

Issues” – Scott Aitchinson, Deputy Course Manager, Royal

recommend Gripclad to any golf club with slippery surface

Enville Golf Club

“This products makes the steps easy and safe to walk

Hillside Golf Club

It is truly non-slip, easy to install and we are proud to

Call: 023 8040

Gripclad Ltd

For free advice

Barry Eagle

Contact

tel: 023 8040

Gripclad Ltd

For free advice

@BIGGALtd

6796
The Master Greenkeeper Certificate is awarded to those greenkeeper members of BIGGA who have reached the highest standards of greenkeeping and golf course management.

It is a prestigious industry award gained by:
- Experience as a greenkeeper
- Through formal and informal training
- Golf course management assessment
- A rigorous, two-part examination

All Full, Associate and International members of BIGGA are eligible to join and earn Stage 1 Credits. Applicants must be Course Managers (Superintendents) and/or head greenkeepers to progress to Stages 2 and 3.

Do you have what it takes? Download an application form at www.bigga.org.uk by clicking on Education.

The Master Greenkeeper Certificate is awarded to those greenkeeper members of BIGGA who have reached the highest standards of greenkeeping and golf course management.

It is a prestigious industry award gained by:
- Experience as a greenkeeper
- Through formal and informal training
- Golf course management assessment
- A rigorous, two-part examination

All Full, Associate and International members of BIGGA are eligible to join and earn Stage 1 Credits. Applicants must be Course Managers (Superintendents) and/or head greenkeepers to progress to Stages 2 and 3.

Do you have what it takes? Download an application form at www.bigga.org.uk by clicking on Education.

BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Hundreds of books are available in our Lending Library...

...simply click on the ‘Lending Library’ tab in the Members’ section of the BIGGA website

www.bigga.org.uk

BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

To find out more contact BIGGA L&D on 01347 833800 (option 3)
The Master Greenkeeper Certificate is awarded to those greenkeeper members of BIGGA who have reached the highest standards of greenkeeping and golf course management. It is a prestigious industry award gained by:
- Experience as a greenkeeper
- Through formal and informal training
- Golf course management assessment
- A rigorous, two-part examination

All Full, Associate and International members of BIGGA are eligible to join and earn Stage 1 Credits. Applicants must be Course Managers (Superintendents)/Head Greenkeepers to progress to Stages 2 and 3.

Do you have what it takes? Download an application form at www.bigga.org.uk by clicking on Education.

---

**BIGGA Lending Library**

**BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT**

Hundreds of books are available in our Lending Library

...simply click on the ‘Lending Library’ tab in the ‘Members’ section of the BIGGA website

www.bigga.org.uk

---

**BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT**

To find out more contact BIGGA L&D on 01347 833800 (option 3)

---

**BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships**

supported by

**RANSSON & JACOBSEN**

A Textron Company

may be awarded if you are a full
BIGGA member studying for the following qualifications:

- NISVO Level 4
- Higher National Certificate
- Foundation Degree/HND
- BSc Turf Management

---

**BIGGA Membership Benefit**

The Master Greenkeeper Certificate is awarded to those greenkeeper members of BIGGA who have reached the highest standards of greenkeeping and golf course management.

It is a prestigious industry award gained by:

- Experience as a greenkeeper
- Through formal and informal training
- Golf course management assessment
- A rigorous, two-part examination

All Full, Associate and International members of BIGGA are eligible to join and earn Stage 1 Credits. Applicants must be Course Managers (Superintendents)/Head Greenkeepers to progress to Stages 2 and 3.

Do you have what it takes? Download an application form at www.bigga.org.uk by clicking on Education.

---

**BIGGA Lending Library**

**BIGGA Membership Benefit**

Hundreds of books are available in our Lending Library

...simply click on the ‘Lending Library’ tab in the ‘Members’ section of the BIGGA website

www.bigga.org.uk

---

**BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships**

supported by

**RANSSON & JACOBSEN**

A Textron Company

may be awarded if you are a full
BIGGA member studying for the following qualifications:

- NISVO Level 4
- Higher National Certificate
- Foundation Degree/HND
- BSc Turf Management

---

**BIGGA Membership Benefit**

To find out more contact BIGGA L&D on 01347 833800 (option 3)

---

**BIGGA Lending Library**

**BIGGA Membership Benefit**

Hundreds of books are available in our Lending Library

...simply click on the ‘Lending Library’ tab in the ‘Members’ section of the BIGGA website

www.bigga.org.uk

---

**BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships**

supported by

**RANSSON & JACOBSEN**

A Textron Company

may be awarded if you are a full
BIGGA member studying for the following qualifications:

- NISVO Level 4
- Higher National Certificate
- Foundation Degree/HND
- BSc Turf Management

---

**BIGGA Membership Benefit**

To find out more contact BIGGA L&D on 01347 833800 (option 3)
Recruitment

Loch Lomond Golf Club, located just North of Glasgow, boasts some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world of golf, with the Scottish Highlands, lochside mature trees, the loch and the old Mansion House providing a perfect backdrop to an exceptional 7,000 yard parbraid golf course designed by Tom Weiskopf.

We are currently recruiting for enthusiastic and ambitious individuals to complement our full-time team for the 2014 golfing season, employment starting in March or April.

This fantastic opportunity is a wonderful chance to progress and develop your golf course management and turfgrass knowledge.

- Comprehensive training and support would include:
- Managing and preparing world class playing conditions on a daily basis
- Managing USGA Greens and Turf Management following an IPM approach
- Drainage installation and extensive organic matter programmes
- Various golf course construction projects
- Estate and Ecology Management
- Operation and maintenance of a sophisticated extensive fleet of golf course equipment

You can find further information about Loch Lomond on our web page www.lochlomondrecruitment.com

To apply for a position or find out more information please email or post a covering letter and CV along with a minimum of 2 referees to:

Mary Danielsen, Golf Course and Estate Administration Manager, Loch Lomond Golf Club, Boness House, Luss (by Alexandria), Dunbartonshire.

Email: mary.danielsen@lochlomond.com

STAVANGER GOLF CLUB, NORWAY

- 1st Assistant Greenkeeper

SGK is a beautiful 18 hole championship woodland course built in 1956 on the edge of Stavanger. We are seeking the services of a qualified UK to join our staff and be responsible for the maintenance and development of the greens. An NVQ 3 in Sports Turf Management or equivalent is preferred. Minimum 5 years in the industry and 3 years in a supervisory role. PA2, PA6 and FAF6 spraying certificates

For full details please contact or apply please send a CV to: Inge Ullestad, Head Greenkeeper, Stavanger Golfklubb

Inge@sgk.no or call 0047 92450952

Last: 31st Dec 2013

West Surrey Golf Club

After 38 years, our current Course Manager is retiring at the end of June 2014. West Surrey is set within enchanting tranquil Surrey Hills, countryside. The 6477 yard Par 71 parkland course designed by Herbert Fowler in 1916, features two tree lined fairways leading to top quality USGA greens of this private members club.

The new Course Manager will take personal responsibility for ensuring that member and guest expectations are consistently met or exceeded. The successful candidate should be fully qualified and ideally have the following attributes:

- Manage and supervise the greenkeeping team, demonstrating high levels of management skills, communication and leadership.
- Manage budgets, finance and resources.
- Manage the golf course and environmental policies.
- Appraise, train and assess the greenkeeping team and remove the current structure.
- NVQ Level 4 or equivalent, with PA2, PA6 and PA9 spraying certification.
- Previous experience as a Course Manager and working with USGA greens is desirable.

Closing date for Applications is 28th December 2013.

Interviews are expected W/C 28th January 2014.

Please forward your CV to: Richard Hall, Secretary Manager, West Surrey Golf Club, Brunts Green, Godalming, Surrey GU8 5AF.

Email: richard.hall@wsgc.co.uk

USA

FAST TRACK TO THE FUTURE!

TRAIN ON A TOP 100 GOLF COURSE IN THE USA!

BE PART OF THE CREW FOR A US PGA TOUR EVENT!

IMPROVE YOUR LONG TERM CAREER PROSPECTS!

GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE & KNOWLEDGE FROM THE BEST SUPERINTENDENTS IN AMERICA!

GUARANTEED TO GET YOU AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION

REQUIREMENTS:

CLEAN DRIVING / DRUG RECORD
MUST BE ENTHUSIASTIC AND MOTIVATED
MUST HAVE AT LEAST NVQ 2 OR ONE YEAR OF FULL TIME TURFGRASS EDUCATION

PROGRAMS FROM 6 TO 18 MONTHS
HELP WITH VISAS, TRAVEL PLANS AND INSURANCE PLACEMENT AND ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED
AVERAGE WAGE $2,200.00 PER MONTH
OPTIONAL ONLINE TURF CLASSES AVAILABLE

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:
Mike O’Keefe, The Ohio Program
Telephone: 001-614-688-5653
E-mail CV to: okeefe.1@osu.edu
www.ohioprogram.org/applynow1A.php

West Surrey Golf Club

COURSE MANAGER

Mary Danielsen, Golf Course and Estate Administration Manager, Loch Lomond Golf Club, Boness House, Luss (by Alexandria), Dunbartonshire.

Email: mary.danielsen@lochlomond.com
### Regional Sales Managers - Turf maintenance equipment
(North of England and South-east England)

As a Regional Sales Manager you will be required to implement the sales strategy for our broad range of turf maintenance equipment across your territory, analyse market potential and effectively manage our distribution to consistently achieve your sales targets. New business development will be a major function of this position with a focus on increasing market share within your territory. These two open positions are for the north of England and the south-east of England respectively.

- Hourly salary of 135,- Norwegian Kroner. (ca. 14 GBP.) Overtime will be paid at an additional 40%
- The working week is 37.5 hours. (Overtime and weekend work is expected)
- Drainage installation and extensive organic matter programmes
- Previous experience as a Course Manager and working with USGA greens is desirable.
- Management skills, communication and leadership.
- Good working knowledge of automatic irrigation systems
- ideally have the following attributes:
  - CS31 and CS32 chainsaw certificates would be beneficial
  - 1st Assistant Greenkeeper

Please apply before the 31st December with a CV to logan@notteroygolf.no

---

### Regional Sales Managers – E-Z-GO/Cushman
(South of England and North of England/Scotland and Ireland)

As a Regional Sales Manager you will be required to implement our sales strategy for E-Z-GO golf cars and Cushman light utility vehicles across your territory, analyse market potential and consistently achieve your sales targets. New Business development will be a major function of this position with a focus on increasing market share within your region. These two open positions are for the combined north of England/Scotland and Ireland territory and the south of England.

- Prior field sales or sales management in the turf care or a vehicle-related industry is a requirement. Alternatively, a sound knowledge of the golf industry would be an advantage.
- Ideally, you will have a degree or ‘A’ level qualifications, be I.T. literate and have a clean driving licence. These positions require highly motivated, enthusiastic and energetic people who would like to join a progressive industry leader. We offer regular performance appraisals, a pleasant working environment, a salary commensurate with the position and additional benefits that you would expect from a company such as ours.
- A proven track record in commercial sales is essential.
- Industry experience is preferred but full training will be provided.

If you meet these criteria and are seriously interested in this position, please send your CV to: Carol Mellelieu, Human Resources Director
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd
West Road
Ransomes Europark
Ipswich IP3 9TT
Email: cmellelieu@tip.textron.com
To arrive no later than Friday 17th January 2014
(No agencies)

---

### Commercial Sales Manager

**Fairways GM Ltd**, a well established business in the grounds care equipment industry throughout Scotland, is expanding its commercial sales operation.

The position we are offering is an exciting and challenging role dealing with new and existing customers in all aspects of the grounds care industry. Representing top quality marketing leading products such as Ransomes, Wiedenmann, E-Z-GO, Mega and Halo, the successful candidate will be a self-motivated, goal orientated performer who will work well with our established sales and service teams.

- A proven track record in commercial sales is essential.
- Industry experience is preferred but full training will be provided.

Please apply by email enclosing your CV to The General Manager: ray@fairwaysgm.com
Applications close: 13/01/2014

---

**Commercial Sales Manager**

**Fairways GM Ltd**, a well established business in the grounds care equipment industry throughout Scotland, is expanding its commercial sales operation.

The position we are offering is an exciting and challenging role dealing with new and existing customers in all aspects of the grounds care industry. Representing top quality marketing leading products such as Ransomes, Wiedenmann, E-Z-GO, Mega and Halo, the successful candidate will be a self-motivated, goal orientated performer who will work well with our established sales and service teams.

- A proven track record in commercial sales is essential.
- Industry experience is preferred but full training will be provided.

Please apply by email enclosing your CV to The General Manager: ray@fairwaysgm.com
Applications close: 13/01/2014

---

### 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
Dear golfer,

Greenkeepers live up to their name and used to be called Keepers of the Green. They want you to enjoy golf and the course. The Course Superintendent has to have a huge amount of technical knowledge, but when they start work at daybreak to prepare the course they have simpler jobs to do. First they remove dew from the greens, then row and relocate the holes, at times they will have to spike and topdress for the long-term health, performance, and presentation of the course.

But – look at all the things that can interfere from that moment on. Pitch marks which are inadequately repaired, badly raked bunkers, divots not replaced, damage to the hole by careless replacement of the flag, balls lying around on pitch or putting greens, cigarette ends, the list goes on! Etiquette at in The Rules of Golf is important and in your responsibility, not the greenkeeper’s. Having to repair the damage done by careless or thoughtless golfers wastes the time of highly qualified green staff, and means they have less time for the more important work of course maintenance. This etiquette is for your benefit, as there is nothing more annoying than finding a ball sitting in a badly raked bunker or having to repair someone else’s pitchmarks before you can putt.

Most important is the green and its surrounding. You want a hole with an undamaged edge, because the ball could lip out otherwise. The hole remains undamaged without any difficulty if the ball is fetched out of the cup by hand – and not by using the club head! The flagstick should be handled carefully when removing it, and replaced with caution. You should repair your own pitch mark before putting, and in an ideal world should repair other marks spotted at the same time!

Pitch marks should be repaired by drawing or pushing back the turf, not by lifting or digging. A good instruction can be found at www.PitchPin.de

High roughs are supposed to please the eye, affect the strategy of the course and benefit the environment. I feel it’s best not to take trolleys or electric carts through the rough. The turf needs to be treated with care in all situations. Thus, it is a good habit to keep a minimum distance: 3m to the edge of greens and 2m to the edge of bunkers, and trolleys should definitely not be pulled between bunkers and greens. To avoid complications on the putting greens it should be a general rule not to practice for more than five minutes on the same spot. The following players will be grateful for it!

Cigarette ends should be put in the ashtrays on trolleys, not dropped on fairways, bunkers, or greens. Range balls should be collected from all playing surfaces in the baskets provided. After a tee shot tees should be picked up. Tees should be wooden not plastic as they are more environmentally friendly and are less likely to damage mower blades.

When it comes to divots they must not be put back on the cup by hand – and not by using the club head! The flagstick should be handled carefully when removing it, and replaced with caution. You should repair your own pitch mark before putting, and in an ideal world should repair other marks spotted at the same time!

For more than 20 years Baroness has been building quality mowers without plastic for more than 100 years of experience goes Quality on Demand. The views expressed within this column are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International.

Yours faithfully, Norbert Lischka MG

Baroness also produces the GM2800, a semi-rough mower which is class-leading in its field.

Now available with a 21hp 3-cylinder diesel engine and offering industry leading light weight and cutting quality or performance!

Baroness LM315 is now available to view on your golf course reel-mower range. Many UK Golf Clubs are already benefitting from the Baroness GM2800 semi-rough mower and are less likely to damage mower blades.

High roughs are supposed to please the eye, affect the strategy of the course and benefit the environment. I feel it's best not to take trolleys or electric carts through the rough. The turf needs to be treated with care in all situations. Thus, it is a good habit to keep a minimum distance: 3m to the edge of greens and 2m to the edge of bunkers, and trolleys should definitely not be pulled between bunkers and greens. To avoid complications on the putting greens it should be a general rule not to practice for more than five minutes on the same spot. The following players will be grateful for it!

Cigarette ends should be put in the ashtrays on trolleys, not dropped on fairways, bunkers, or greens. Range balls should be collected from all playing surfaces in the baskets provided. After a tee shot tees should be picked up. Tees should be wooden not plastic as they are more environmentally friendly and are less likely to damage mower blades.

When it comes to divots they must not be put back on the cup by hand – and not by using the club head! The flagstick should be handled carefully when removing it, and replaced with caution. You should repair your own pitch mark before putting, and in an ideal world should repair other marks spotted at the same time!

For more than 20 years Baroness has been building quality mowers without plastic for more than 100 years of experience goes Quality on Demand.
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 LM315 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.

Many UK Golf Clubs are already benefitting from the matchless Baroness quality of cut from all our other models in the Baroness golf course reel-mower range.

Baroness also produces the GM2800, a semi-rough 5-unit rotary mower which is class-leading in cutting quality and traction ability.

**NEW for 2014!**

Introducing the Baroness LM2400, a truly lightweight fairway mover that doesn't disappoint on cutting quality or performance!

Baroness..........truly quality on demand!
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

Quality Assured – Inspection and service for added value and peace of mind