It’s back!

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition returns to Harrogate

FEATURED INSIDE

John Clarke of Woburn Golf Club

ALSO INSIDE...

BIGGA DELEGATION ANNOUNCED
WINTER COURSE MANAGEMENT Q&A
The Cushman 1600XD lives to conquer any job. There’s no task too big for the 22-hp diesel engine, 1,600-lb payload and massive cargo bed. And no matter where work needs to be done, you’ll get there thanks to user-selectable 4WD, a locking rear differential and 4-wheel independent suspension. So, whether you’re moving mountains or driving over them, the 1600XD is ready for action.

**LET’S WORK**

BTME brings New Year Cheer

A Happy New Year to all, let’s hope it brings better weather and economic conditions than the last and that the amazing year of sport we’ve witnessed leads to an upturn in participation meaning more golfers and more golf.

Certainly the heroes of the European Ryder Cup team and Rory McIlroy’s ascent to being the sport’s number one superstar should provide inspiration and I know our industry is desperate to provide the excellent playing surfaces that make the game so enjoyable.

January is BTME month, the exhibition looks buoyant with many of our exhibitors debuting new products and services that will make turf maintenance more efficient or effective. The Continue to Learn education programme is filling up nicely with the Turf Managers Conference on Monday 21st going particularly well. The balance of technical turf matters with management topics in a great reflection of the role of the Course or Facility Manager and I know that all those who attend will leave having gained knowledge and skills that will benefit their surfaces and by extension their customers.

Visitor numbers look very healthy with pre-registrations up on this time last year, I would urge all of you who are intending to come to go through the pre-registration process on btme.org.uk to avoid the queues on arrival. All in all the signs are all pointing to another superb festival of turf management with the suppliers and manufacturers providing the platform for a few days of fantastic networking, I look forward to seeing you in Harrogate.

On a less positive note we have started to hear rumours of non-exhibiting companies who are planning to come to Harrogate and attempt to do business with visitors inside or outside of the Exhibition Halls. The Americans call this practice ‘Hijacking’ but I have a stronger term for it – Hijacking. BTME is a brilliant vehicle for getting thousands of greengroopers and greensman professionals together and driving standards up. The hundreds of exhibitors who take space in the Halls provide this platform and any company who seeks to take advantage of this ‘Hijacking’ is doing the entire industry damage. I would strongly urge any of you who are or have been approached by a non-exhibiting company not just to deny them your time but to make it clear to them that their actions are unacceptable. We understand that BTME is not a viable option for a number of companies but they should have the good grace to respect those who are contributing to the event.

During BTME I am much looking forward to meeting up with the ten successful BIGGA members (see page 26) who will make up the Bernhard’s Delegation to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month. This initiative is now in its 11th year and I know a high proportion of previous delegates believe that the experience of taking part has had a significant positive impact on their careers. Thanks again to Stephen Bernhard for this long term support of this fantastic member benefit.

My New Year’s Resolution (or at least one of them!) is to stop moaning about the weather but I fear I’m in the wrong industry for this. A look back over the last twelve months of magazines shows that water – either the lack of it or far too much of it – has dominated conversation. In this edition we look at the new solutions that our members have found.

Enjoy the read.
Let’s Work

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Enjoy the read.

Jim Croxton
Chief Executive
A look at what’s inside the magazine this month

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John Critchley, greenkeeper at Les Mielles Golf & Country Club, maintains an impressive blog with frequent updates and images of the team at work on the Championship course which is in a picturesque conservation area of the island.

Read it for yourself at www.lesmiellesgroundscrew.blogspot.co.uk. It’s also pleasing to note that it’s given a very prominent spot on the club’s website – clearly visible at the top of the text on the homepage.

John says: “I started the blog in October last year to make the members aware of what we’re doing and educate them on why we follow certain practices. For example, when hollow coring we follow certain practices. For more information, I am easily approachable. It’s benefitted the members and our team, I believe it’s shown them we are dedicated and take pride in what we do.

“The feedback from the Club has been positive. Members who you never thought would come to us say they have been following the blog which is great. I feel the majority of golfers don’t understand what our job entails. When the weather’s bad some believe we either go home or sit in the break room drinking coffee. Actually we’re servicing the machines, setting up mowers, cleaning and organizing store sheds, doing paint work and all manner of other tasks. It’s important to make the members aware we are always doing valuable work.

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The latest news from around the globe

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GCMA APPOINTS NEW CEO
The Golf Club Managers Association is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Bob Williams.

Bob is well known to many within the Association already, having been in golf club management for 20 years, previously Manager at Long Ashton GC and latterly at Chipping-Sodbury GC.

He is also an active member in the South West Region, notably spearheading their educational activities in recent years. Bob also played an active part in the Association’s planning group for the 2011 National Conference.

He is also currently working with the Association’s Golf Bradle and Bucks New University to help develop the education programme there, including preparation of the course content.

Bob was already scheduled to help with a presentation at the BTME show at Harrogate in January, and will be attending the Regional Education Conference at Weston-super-Mare at the end of January also.

Bob will formally commence the new role from the 1st February 2013, initially working closely with current CEO Keith Lloyd for a month’s handover period before Keith departs at the end of February.

GEORGE PITTs BECOMES LATEST MG
George Pitts - Course Manager at Yelverton Golf Club - has been announced as BIGGA’s latest Master Greenkeeper.

George, who is also Secretary for the Devon & Cornwall Section, lives in Okehampton and described how pleased he was to have been awarded the accolade, while highlighting how important education is.

He said: “Achieving the Master Greenkeeper certificate has been my career objective since completing my HNV in 2000. It’s a great process, ensuring you meet the highest industry standards and promote professionalism to the wider golfing community.

“Education and training is key to improving the integrity of the profession and the Association. Thank you to Yelverton Golf Club for their support during the process and to various peers in the industry for their help and guidance.”

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP
BIGGA volunteers are once again required to help Kenny MacKay and his team at The Wentworth Club for the BMW PGA Championship between May 23-26 2013.

Assistance will be required for any period of time during the tournament – from all four days to just one day.

The last two days will feature bunker raking. It’s a great chance to see in first hand the preparation for this European Tour flagship event, which will be held on the West Course. All assistance will be greatly appreciated.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator at clive osgood@yahoo.co.uk or call Clive on 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.
WHAT IS PHOSPHITE AND WHAT CAN IT DO FOR TURFGRASSES?

Phosphorus is a major plant nutrient, in plants taken up and used in the form of phosphate (PO4). Phosphate (PO4) is very similar to phosphate, only one molecule of oxygen in the difference. However, where phosphate is vital for plant growth, phosphite cannot be utilized by plants as a source of P nutrition and importantly should not be applied to P deficient plants.

Phosphate, derived from phosphorus acid by photolytic and has to be modified prior to use with a neutralizing substance - most commonly potassium hydroxide, producing potassium phosphite - currently marketed as a biostimulant and promoted as a means to reduce Microdochium nivale.

We have two questions to answer; Does phosphite suppress Microdochium nivalis in turfgrasses? And by what means does this occur?

To date field trials and laboratory procedures have produced interesting results. Trial plots composed of turfgrass species were established in 2010. In these treatments were applied and the effect on disease incidence and turf quality assessed. Pots are assessed monthly for disease occurrence and turf quality. Results have shown applications of potassium phosphite reduces disease by 50%, compared to untreated controls. Combinations of Chipco Green and PK Plus fully inhibited disease. Results have shown for disease occurrence and turfgrass quality assessed.

In summary, what can be said?

- To test whether phosphite acts as a fungicide - we carried out a range of in vitro studies. Microdochium was grown on petri dishes, amended with concentrations of phosphite and phosphate, the growth then compared to unamended controls. Results showed concentrations of 100μg/ml of phosphite fully inhibited mycelial growth and at lower concentrations caused disruption of hyphal morphology. Phosphate amended samples caused no effect.

- Using a range of laboratory procedures we determined that following foliar applications there was rapid absorption and accumulations in turfgrass leaves, full systemic mobility was observed in certain in the plant to phosphate.

- In summary, what can be concluded from the results of this research to date is that routine and sequential applications of phosphite, as part of an integrated disease management program, significantly reduce the incidence and severity of the disease and also gives rise to significantly improved turfgrass quality than untreated controls.

- Direct - Phosphite acts as a fungicide and has a significant degree of suppression or possible synergistic effect. A significant improvement in turf quality in all phosphate treated plots was also determined. How does this occur? There are two possible methods:

  - Direct - Phosphite acts as a fungicide - and indirect - Phosphite stimulates the plants natural defences.

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HOLLAND IN AUSTRALIA

Abbie Holland, a greenkeeper from West Sussex Golf Club, tells GI about an incredible few months working at Lake Karrinyup Country Club in Australia.

I applied for a working holiday visa to Australia and enabled every course I could find with my CV. Lake Karrinyup replied offering me an eight-week contract over the Perth International tournament being held in October 2012.

I packed my backpack, said goodbye to my friends and family and travelled to Australia. I started my adventure by diving the great barrier reef, swimming in the rainforest, whale watching, fishing, diving, snorkeling and camping with dingoes - incredible.

When I walked up to the immaculately presented gardens and lush turf of Lake Karrinyup Country Club I couldn’t believe my eyes. On my first day I met the 18-strong team and was introduced to the 18-year-old team leader, a bunker raker. Before this I had never been near a bunker in my life, but here I had to be up before the sun, and stick at the end of the fairways doing maintenance. The greens were being double cut. A few times we had to be up before the sun, but to keep my lines straight I was given a light to stick at the end of the fairways. It was a bit surreal at times, especially when I’d be mowing next to a local kangaroo. Due to its being so well organised we were usually finished in time to go for a good laugh. My plans now is to stay in Perth because I really have become settled here and enjoy the climate. Pushing up bunkers, cutting holes in the frost and digging through mud is almost a thing of the past due to the sandy soils and hardly ever rains.

I would advise anyone thinking about travelling to do so. Personally, I’ve had such a positive and happy experience due to the people and their attitude and I hope to take my knowledge with me to my next course.

Why will our competitors seem green with envy?
It's no surprise that Revolution is trusted by so many turf professionals around the world. It's the only soil surfactant that goes beyond water repellency issues, providing comprehensive water management and plant health benefits as well.

Revolution's patented formulation balances air and water in the soil profile, leading to a better root system and improved soil health. By maximizing the potential of your growing environment, Revolution helps turf function more efficiently and perform at consistently higher levels, even under stress.

Try it — and see the benefits for yourself.

JOIN THE TURF CLUB

Jack Sims, assistant greenkeeper at the Wentworth Club, has started The West London Turf Club – a series of sessions where greenkeepers learn and chat about hot topics in the industry. The first club that GI knows of was set up by Anthony Stockwell at The London Club. Jack is now urging other BIGGA members to get involved.

Jack said: “I started my NVQ2 in sports turf management while working full-time at Ealing Golf Club under Greg Evans.

“Throughout my studies I felt a little behind compared to some of the other young greenkeepers, but once it was completed I went on to start my NVQ3, again with Distance learning.

“I still felt I was missing out on that ‘classroom effect’ that I witnessed at school, where people would ask questions that others hadn’t even thought to ask, debate different theories and come to a solution as a group.

“Greg then told me of a ‘Turf Club’ that was being advertised on the BIGGA bulletin boards at The London Club. I knew this was what I was looking for, other greenkeepers in the same situation, going through some of the basics, as well as more advanced areas and some of the hot topics of the time.

“In January 2011, I took part in my first ever turf club at The London Club. The organiser Anthony Stockwell gave a great presentation on Creeping bent grass. This was followed by an exercise in which involved breaking down into smaller teams and discussing the pros and cons of different grass species.

“A month or so later I was stood in front of a screen, talking about ‘TurfGrass for putting Greens’, in a room full of other greenkeepers at Ealing Golf Club. The day was a success so it was announced we would be doing it again the following month at Richmond Golf Club, with a new topic. This was the start of ‘The West London Turf Club’.

“We are still going strong, and with each one, new faces appear. I have learnt a lot, and met a lot of new people. I would urge greenkeepers up and down the country to get together and do something similar.”

The next meetings of the West London turf club are: 9 January at Richmond GC, 6 February at Ealing GC, 6 March at Richmond GC and 3 April at Ealing GC. For more information contact @jacksim91 on twitter or jacksim91@hotmail.co.uk, or contact Greg Evans at @gregevansmg on twitter or gregevansmg@gmail.com
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Chairman’s Word

National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

BTME will kick-start 2013

Firstly, I hope you and your families had a very enjoyable festive period, and you’re ready for a positive 2013… and BTME!

BTME is a huge highlight of the year for me, as I’m sure it is for many of you. I’m sure you’ve all made arrangements for accommodation and what you’ll be doing while you’re there. If you truly have left it until the last minute, get it sorted now!

At the time of writing there were still places available on our superb education workshops and seminars – visit the BIGGA website or btme.org.uk and if you’re lucky you may snap a place up.

I’ve attended every single day of every BTME since it began and can honestly say I’ve thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

I’ve visited as a delegate, Section committee member, Regional/ National Board member, Vice-Chairman and am proud that this year I will be representing the Association as Chairman, cutting the ribbon to officially open the exhibition.

I will of course be attending the AGM. It will be held on the Wednesday of the exhibition at 5.15pm in the Queen’s Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

I really would encourage you to come along, it’s an opportunity to find out more about our future plans and the direction we intend to take the Association to be heading in.

Our CEO Jim Croxton will make a presentation outlining the main strategies for BIGGA over the next year or two and will concentrate, I am sure, on the role that the current membership has to play in helping drive the Association forward. As usual he and I will be available for questions thereafter.

January is of course a time for looking forward to the New Year, and I feel that this year it’s more important than ever to be positive and really go for it in 2013. We all know 2012 was a tough year, and no-one was immune from the appalling wet weather.

As I write this in mid-December, my golf course, Tressaide, has been closed for weeks. It was also closed for a period in summer, and in all it’s been closed for longer in 2012 than it ever has been in the past. Our sewage pipe has also overflowed twice due to the wet weather, and you can imagine the problems that caused (or maybe you shouldn’t!).

I have great sympathy for all greenkeepers who are giving their all in these conditions.

As ever the standard of applications to be the case again this year.

I would like to close by congratulating the ten BIGGA members who have been selected to form the Deligation to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month.

As ever the standard of applications was incredibly high and I know the successful candidates will represent the Association with distinction while having an amazing opportunity to improve their greenkeeping knowledge and network.

See you in Harrogate.

Regards, Tony
Chairman’s Word

National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

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I have great sympathy for all greenkeepers who are giving their all in these conditions.

As ever the standard of applications to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month will represent the Association with distinction while having an amazing opportunity to improve their greenkeeping knowledge and network.

To keep our heads above water we need to pull together, and if we do we’ll emerge refreshed, able to give golfers the courses they expect and hopefully looking forward to a fine and dry spring.

BTME always helps the industry come together and I fully expect this to be the case again this year.

See you in Harrogate.

Regards, Tony
**BIGGA Membership**

The membership team reflect on current news and affairs affecting you, the BIGGA member.

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2013

Pre-register for BTME 2013

Why not start your year off with a visit to BTME 2013? You can still pre-register to avoid the queues, visit www.btme.org.uk and click on the ‘Register Now’ button.

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- **Tuesday 22nd January 2013** – 9am – 5pm
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If you have previously used the Park and Ride, please note this will not be in operation for 2013.

A full list of our parks in Harrogate visit www.btme.org.uk or see pages 23 of this issue. The hopper service will still be in use.

**BIGGA Stand – B23**

Remember to plan a visit to the BIGGA Stand to meet the BIGGA Team and find information on:

- Membership and Merchandise
- Member Services and Benefits
- Learning and Development
- Sales and Exhibition information
- Sections and Regions, meet your Regional Administrator and Section Committee Members

We will also have information on CourseTracker, the free new digital business management tool for golf courses, developed by the BAAG. An added bonus if you would like an offer where BIGGA members can take advantage of offers from SkyCaddie. Please note. The Showfloor Theatre will now not be appearing at BTME 2013 as previously stated in this column.

**BIGGA Annual General Meeting**

The BIGGA AGM, open to all Members of BIGGA (only FULL Members are entitled to vote) will be held on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 at 5.15pm in the Queen’s Suite, remember to bring your membership card with you. If you are unable to attend and wish to send your apologies please email membership@bigga.co.uk or visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the ‘Contact’ section.

**BIGGA James Bond Evening**

If you haven’t planned your Thursday night entertainment for BTME why not join BIGGA at the James Bond Evening? Held at The Old Swan Hotel from 7.00 pm you will be treated to all things related to Bond, James Bond. Tickets are £25.00 each and include a drink on arrival, dinner and casino chips.

To purchase your ticket call Elaine Jones on 01347 833800 or email money@bigga.co.uk.

Continue to Learn

The Continue to Learn programme this year offers more than 180 hours of education with subjects ranging from IT skills to the A, B, C’s of Putting Green Maintenance. The education offerings range from 30 minutes in length to 2 days and everything in between. You can view the full programme on the BTME website www.btme.org.uk.

Our American friends, Thom Nikolaki from Michigan State University (aka The Doctor of Green Speed) and Curtis Tyrrell MG, CGCS from Medinah Golf & Country Club in Chicago will both be featuring on the education programme, discussing subjects including the Ryder Cup and putting green speed.

We hope you booked your place at the seminars? As a BIGGA member you have the opportunity to guarantee your seat for the seminars that you want to attend. 70 vouchers have been made available for each of the 28 seminars on offer. The remaining 40-50 seats will be available on a first come, first serve basis as in previous years.

Please remember that if you have pre-booked vouchers they will need to be exchanged for a ticket at least one hour before the seminar takes place. You can exchange your vouchers in the Queen’s Suite of Harrogate International Centre.

BTME

The BIGGA stand at BTME 2013 (Stand B23) will have an area dedicated to Learning and Development. Stuart Green will be in residence to provide you with information on a range of topics including:

- Apprenticeships
- Continuing Professional Development
- Assistants Development Programme
- Future Turf Managers Initiative
- Master Greenkeeper
- Scholarships and funding
- Online Learning provision

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The jingle bells have been put away, Santa’s elves have gone on holiday and we’ve sung Auld Lang Syne so that can only mean that it’s 2013. Happy New Year from all of us in the Learning and Development Department, may it be healthy, happy and prosperous.

You all know what January means in the greenskeeper calendar – BTME, and more specifically for L&D, the Continue to Learn education programme.

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The closing date for bookings is Friday 1 January 2013.

We look forward to seeing you all in Harrogate.

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Personal Accident Insurance Cover for FULL Members

As part of the membership benefits, BIGGA cover all full members for personal accident insurance. This means that if any full member has an accident, at work, at home, or even playing sport and is off work through that injury they can potentially claim through the personal accident insurance.

The insurance provides cover for accidental bodily injury which results in death, loss of limbs or sight, hearing and speech, permanent disability or temporary disability. There are additional payments for medical expenses, funeral expenses, hospitalisation, bodily injury resulting in a coma, retainting and relatives travel expenses.

Temporary total disability is a weekly compensation resulting from bodily injury which temporar-ily prevents you from carrying out the whole of your occupational duties, e.g. you may have an acciden- 

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BTME 2013

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

incorporating:

BIGGA Seminars & Workshops
20-23 January 2013

Your essential 8-page guide to the ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

It’s now just days until the event of the year – BTME 2013. A host of exhibitors are launching exciting new products during the exhibition – see our sneak preview in our New Product Special on pages 18-21.

Here’s some key last-minute information.

EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES

Opening times: Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd (9am-5pm), Thursday 24th January 2013 (9am-4pm).

CONTINUE TO LEARN EDUCATION PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

At the time of going to press some seminars and workshops still had spare places – however these are limited so please book NOW to avoid disappointment. To reserve your place please click on the Continue to Learn logo at www.btme.org.uk

MEDIA CENTRE

If you are press and PR, please visit btme.org.uk/media for the full timetable

CATERING

Hot meals will be available in Hall C, which will also house a coffee bar, a licensed bar and an internet café. Hot snacks will be on sale in Hall B.

WIFI

Delegates and exhibitors can enjoy free wi-fi access during the show in Halls A, B and C. Please note that the speed of the connection – 0.5MB - will be suitable for checking emails and browsing rather than playing videos or demonstrations.

Any exhibitors requiring a large bandwidth need to order this directly from Harrogate International Centre. Further details are available at www.harrogateinternationalcentre.co.uk

BIGGA STAND B23

Our stand is based in the same spot as last year and we expect it to be a hive of activity – so come and see us. Remember to plan a visit to meet the BIGGA Team and find information on:

• Membership and Merchandise
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BIGGA merchandise will also be available, so if you have any questions – or just want to put a face to a name! – we’ll see you at B23.

We will also have information on CourseTracker, the free new digital business management tool for golf courses, developed by the R&A – and a special offer for BIGGA members from SkyCad-die.

Win an iPad!

Come and see CourseTracker on the BIGGA stand (B23) for the chance to win an iPad!

CONTINUE TO LEARN EDUCATION PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

Sunday 20 January
Continue to Learn Workshop Registration
9.00 am – 9.30 am
Continue to Learn Workshops
9.30 am – 5.30 pm

Monday 21 January
Turf Managers’ Conference Registration
8.15 am – 8.55 am
Turf Managers’ Conference
9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Continue to Learn Workshop Registration
8.30 am – 9.00 am
Continue to Learn Workshops
9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Tuesday 22 January
Continue to Learn Education Programme
9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Wednesday 23 January
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9.00 am – 5.00 pm
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New Syngenta Turf XC Nozzle launch for BTME

Syngenta is to launch its new XC range of turf sprayer nozzles at BTME. Designed to improve the accuracy and results from every application, the Syngenta Turf XC Nozzle range overcomes the key issues facing turf spray operators to achieve even application.

An entirely new engineered solution incorporates a unique offset design with a wide-spray angle, to produce an improved droplet distribution - capable of delivering even turf coverage at low nozzle heights. This resolves problems with slopes and undulations that can result in uneven spray distribution.

Furthermore, the XC Nozzle design utilises new air induction technology to reduce the risk of spray drift, whilst still creating significantly more droplets to enhance leaf coverage. To deliver more effective results, each nozzle in the range has a specifically calculated and tested rearwards facing spray pattern, which counteracts the forward movement of the sprayer to coat and protect all sides of the turf leaf.

The XC Nozzle range will launch at BTME with three sizes: 025, 04 and 08 - selected to cover most turf applications at appropriate water volumes and typical spraying speeds.

To find out more and see a prototype of the nozzles, along with calibration tips and practical ideas to improve the Art of Application, visit the Syngenta stand B52 at BTME, or visit www.greencast.co.uk

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

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

The Grassy Group will be exhibiting the Trio S3 triaxial Vacuum Sweeper for the first time at BTME. Purpose developed for use behind compact tractors delivering 28hp plus at the PTO, the 1.5m working width Trio S3 has a large, high-tip-360 degree capacity container.

Suitable for the collection of grass clippings, leaves and litter, the full floating brush head sweeps and gathers material that is vacuumed into the container to leave a clean finish. A key design feature is the unit’s low ground bearing pressure. This enables it to be used on fine turf with minimal surface disturbance and allows operation in conditions where heavier designs may be compromised.

Among other equipment on display will be the Rota-Dairon RGK4 40 Disk Overseeder. With proven in the care and renovation of all types of turf, to include fine turf, the 1400mm working width machine uses discs to cut a slice through the turf, a coulter opening the groove out to allow the accurate placement of seed. The opening is then closed and firmed by a rubber press. A key advantage of the unit is that it leaves a surface that can be pressed back into play immediately. Pay us a visit at Stand A35.

...
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Aquatrols: The Creation of an Industry

Roughly 60 years ago, Robert A. Moore pondered over a puddle in a friend’s garden – a seemingly minor moment that would go on to forever change the water management practices of green industry professionals worldwide. A chemical engineer in research at Mobil Oil, Moore’s science-driven curiosity led him to experiment with various surfactant blends to remedy water movement issues. Recognising that using surfactants to improve water penetration and reduce water waste had implications beyond the garden, Moore decided to patent and market his novel discovery. In 1954 he founded Aquatrols Corporation of America, the first surfactant company specifically tailored to the needs of the Green Industry. Nearly six decades later, Aquatrols remains the market leader.

There have been plenty of changes in the field of turf management since Aquatrols introduced Aqua-Gro, the first commercially produced surfactant solution for turf maintenance. Aquatrols has over the years continued to develop Water Management products with Primer 604, Revolution and Dispatch. There have also been changes for Aquatrols. After Robert Moore’s retirement and subsequent passing, his three children have helped navigate Aquatrols through a period of increased competition by channeling his spirit of innovation.

Though the longer stands alone in an industry it created, Aquatrols continues to set itself apart with a commitment to science, education and conservation of precious resources. Today Aquatrols is proud to offer a line of cutting-edge surfactants and other specialty technologies that address a wide variety of turf managers’ needs.

With its own fully staffed research and development department, a technically knowledgeable sales force, and a long history serving turf professionals, Aquatrols has no fear of the great number of competitive products that have flooded the market since the early days. In an age of large corporations and constant mergers, it’s refreshing to see a family owned and operated business that has not only survived for 50 years but has maintained a strong position of leadership in the industry. And to think it all started with a simple puddle.

BLEC GLOBAL will use BTME to launch new products for the grounds care and sportsturf marketplace.

As well as the new products, under wraps until the show, the BLEC team will be showing the proven GK9 Sandfiller. The Sandfiller has been specifically designed for aerating and draining sports turf. This tractor-mounted aerifier and sandfiller removes and collects spoil and fills grooves with sand in one pass.

Says BLEC managing director Gary Mumble: "Harrogate is a very important show for us where we get the chance to start the year by showing all our innovations for sportsturf and landscaping professionals. "It is a great place to catch up with customers and old friends and we look forward to seeing them on Stand A40."

Headland Amenity is bringing its range of innovative turf nutrition, health and management products to BTME 2 103 at Harrogate.

Using the latest technology to offer greenkeepers practical solutions to turfcare issues, Headland will introduce Xtrme 10-10-10 on Stand B50 at the show. This is a unique pre-seedling fertiliser ideal for use on golf tees, fairways and surrounds as well as winter sports pitches, cricket outfields and racecourse turf.

Suitable for application after any renovation work and after cutting, Xtreme 10-10-10 uses Crystal Green, a new source of slow release phosphorus, nitrogen and magnesium recovered from UK waste water. With additional slow release nitrogen providing release for up to three months, a composted organic base, seaweed meal and humic acid, the product is able to aid germination and gentle establishment of new grasses.

Xtrme 10-10-10 will provide natural, effective nutrition over a long period while helping to cut workloads for greening teams with its slow release action.

Headland will also feature its mini prilled fertiliser formulations, Multiverd 13-0-46 and Multigreen 24-0-24.

Multiverd is a fine prilled potassium nitrate suitable for all turf, providing immediately available nitrogen along with good levels of plant hardening potassium. The sulphur free formulation works rapidly under cooler temperatures to aid early establishment, and plant hardiness.

Headland Amenity’s Sales and Marketing Director Andy Russell comments: “We have some exciting products to show to Course Managers and Greenkeepers at BTME, spearheaded by Xtrme 10-10-10 which takes the latest technology to utilise a waste product which can really enhance establishment and turf recovery. Headland fertilisers not only offer great results from the turf but can also help to cut greening workloads by providing nutrition over a longer period.”

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Dennis Moore, daughter of Robert A Moore will be talking on “The Evolution of Soil Surfactant Technology for Enhanced Water Management” at BTME 2013 on Wednesday 23rd January 9.45am – 10.15am.

ENVIROMONITORS CAN HELP YOU AT BTME

Enviromonitors’ measurement tools can help you save resources such as time, water and fertiliser applications. Enviromonitors are exhibiting for the third year on Stand B5 at BTME 2013. Visit them to see how you can get the best out of your turf using science based handheld meters and weather monitoring.

Enviromonitors’ measurement technology partner Spectrum Technologies Inc. will be attending BTME 2013. Spectrum’s Turf Specialist Greg Zamdahl is running the “World of Measurement Technology within Turfgrass Management” seminar on Tuesday 22 January 2013. We encourage you to come along to confirm and/or expand your knowledge and consider the tools you can put into practice at your club. The seminar will provide in-depth understanding of soil, plant, and environmental measurement technology tools available for turf managers. Enviromonitors always enjoy BTME as visitors are enthused with customers and old friends.

Get in touch for no obligation practical advice

Call: +44 (0)1260 235568
Email: info@campeyturfdome.com
Web: www.campeyturfdome.com

Campy Turf Care Systems – Specialised suppliers of greenskeepers equipment

BLEC to launch new Sandfiller at Harrogate

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BTME: KEY INFO

PARKING

The park and ride service has been discontinued, but the hopper service remains. Also, there are several public car parks within easy reach of the Harrogate International Centre (HIC) – please see the map.

ACCOMMODATION

The map shows the location of the main hotels within the town.

How to find the HIC

Harrogate is located centrally on the UK map with ready access to London and Edinburgh. A first-class motorway network, mainline rail, sea and 24-hour air links ensure that Harrogate is able to offer all the benefits expected of a truly global location. Harrogate has excellent rail and air links with regular train services to and from London King’s Cross via York and Leeds.

www.nationalrail.co.uk and Leeds Bradford International Airport is only 20 minutes from Harrogate with a regular bus service to London and Edinburgh. A first-class motorway network, mainline rail, sea and air links ensure that Harrogate is able to offer all the benefits expected of a truly global location.

For details about travelling to Harrogate by public transport visit www.transportdirect.info

Car

From London:

- M1 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.
- From the North: A1 - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.
- From the East: M621 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

Harrogate International Centre

Car Park

- Pay & Display operation.
- Allocated spaces for Blue Badge Holders.
- CCTV monitored entrance/exit.
- Open as required for events Monday to Sunday.
- Opening times displayed next to ticket machines.

Jubilee multi-storey car park

- (Closed car park for Royal Hall, Hall A and Hall M entrance).
- Pay on foot operation.
- Lifts to all floors.
- Toilets and baby changing facilities.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 11.59pm vehicles can be left overnight subject to an appropriate fee on exit.

Victoria multi-storey car park

- (5 min walk).
- Pay on foot operation.
- Lifts to all floors.
- Covered walkway to town centre.
- Toilets and baby changing facilities.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 7.30pm (Mon-Sat) from 7pm (Sun & Bank Holidays) vehicles can be left overnight subject to an appropriate fee on exit.

West Park multi-storey car park

- (10 min walk).
- Pay & Display operation.
- Toilets.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 7pm (Mon-Sat) from 7pm (Sun & Bank Holidays) vehicles can be left overnight subject to displaying a valid parking ticket.

Dragon Road Contractors car park

- (6 min walk).
- Paying area for exhibition and contractors visiting HIC.
- Free parking if an official collection/delivery pass is displayed in front windscreen. These passes may be obtained from the event organiser.
- Monitored by CCTV and, during busy show days, a security and logistics team. All other times, a public pay and display car park.

Odion Cinema car park

- (10 min walk).
- Pay & Display operation.
- Parking for 88 cars.
- 2 Blue Badge spaces.

Park View car park

- (8 min walk).
- Pay & Display operation.
- Parking for 78 cars.

Montpellier Shoppers car park

- (6 min walk).
- Pay & Display operation.
- Parking for 65 cars.
**PARKING**

The park and ride service has been discontinued, but the hopper service remains. Also, there are several public car parks within easy reach of the Harrogate International Centre (HIC) – please see the map.

**ACCOMMODATION**

The map shows the location of the main hotels within the town.

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**Car Parks in Harrogate**

**HIC car park**
- Pay & Display operation.
- Allocated spaces for Blue Badge Holders.
- Access to HIC.
- CCTV monitored entrance/exit.
- Open as required for events Monday to Sunday.
- Opening times displayed next to ticket machines.

**Jubilee multi-storey car park**
(Disabled car park for Royal Hall, Hall A and Hall M entrances)
- Pay on foot operation.
- Lifts to all floors.
- Toilets and baby changing facilities.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 11.59pm (vehicles can be left overnight subject to an appropriate fee on exit).

**Victoria multi-storey car park**
(6 min. walk)
- Pay on foot operation.
- Lifts to all floors.
- Covered walkway to town centre.
- Toilets and baby changing facilities.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 7.30am (Mon–Sat) and from 7am to 1pm (Sun & Bank Holidays).

**West Park multi-storey car park**
(10 min. walk)
- Pay & Display operation.
- Toilets.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 7pm (Mon–Sat) and from 7am to 3pm (Sun & Bank Holidays).
- Vehicles can be left overnight subject to displaying a valid parking ticket.

**Dragon Road Contractors car park**
(6 min. walk)
- Pay & Display operation.
- Toilets.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 7pm (Mon–Sat) and from 7am to 1pm (Sun & Bank Holidays).
- Vehicles can be left overnight subject to displaying a valid parking ticket.

**Odeon Cinema car park**
(10 min. walk)
- Pay & Display operation.
- Toilets.
- Comprehensive CCTV system.
- Open from 7am to 7pm (Mon–Sat) and from 7am to 1pm (Sun & Bank Holidays).
- Vehicles can be left overnight subject to displaying a valid parking ticket.

**View car park**
(8 min. walk)
- Pay & Display operation.
- Parking for 76 cars.

**Montpellier Shoppers car park**
(6 min. walk)
- Pay & Display operation.
- Parking for 65 cars.

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**Hotels in Harrogate**

- Kimberley Hotel
- Majestic Hotel
- Old Swan Hotel
- St George Hotel
- Crown Hotel
- White Hart Hotel
- Hotel du Vin
- Grants Hotel
- Holiday Inn Hotel
- Cairn Hotel
- Cedar Court Hotel
- Studley Hotel
- Yorkshire Hotel

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**How to find the HIC**

Harrogate is located centrally on the UK map with ready access to London and Edinburgh. A first-class motorway network, mainline rail, sea and 24-hour air links ensure that Harrogate is able to offer all the benefits expected of a truly global location. Harrogate has excellent rail and air links with regular train services to and from London King’s Cross via York and Leeds. Rio and Leeds Bradford International Airport is only 20 minutes from Harrogate with a regular bus service into Harrogate. For details about travelling to Harrogate please visit www.harrogatetransportdirect.info.

From London: M1 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

From the North: A1 - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

From the East: M621 - A1(M) - J47 signposted Knaresborough and then follow the Harrogate signs.

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**Restaurants**

- Alberts Bar & Grill
  Tel: 01423 564946
  Modern English

- B.L.E.D
  Tel: 01423 566000
  Modern English

- Bengal Tikka
  Tel: 01423 502610
  Indian

- Betty’s
  Tel: 01423 814008
  Traditional English

- Bistro Pierre
  Tel: 01423 533070
  French

- Cattlemen’s Association
  Tel: 01423 560846
  Tex-Mex

- Chef La Vie
  Tel: 01423 568018
  Traditional English

- Drum & Monkey
  Tel: 01423 502600
  Seaside

- Harrogate Brasserie
  Tel: 01423 505041
  English

- Joe Rigatoni
  Tel: 01423 500071
  Italian

- La Tasca
  Tel: 01423 566333
  Tapas

- Thai Elephant
  Tel: 01423 566333
  Thai

- Tapas
  Tel: 01423 500071
  Italian

- Thai Elephant
  Tel: 01423 566333
  Tapas

- Harrogate Brasserie
  Tel: 01423 505041
  English

- Joe Rigatoni
  Tel: 01423 500071
  Italian

- William and Victoria
  Tel: 01423 521510
  English

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High Speed Wireless Internet is available here...

£4 for 60 minutes

A premier wifi voucher card will be required. Voucher cards are available from any catering outlet.

Once you have a voucher card, follow the instructions below to access the Wireless Network.

1. Enable the Wireless Network on your PC
   Some wireless clients require you to select or enter a wireless name (SSID). Where necessary, please use the name ‘HIC_Wireless’

2. Open Web browser

3. The welcome portal will appear, follow the simple instructions shown on screen to connect to the internet, using your voucher code.

£4 for 60 minutes

Visitor - 60 minute Internet access

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For YOUR EYES ONLY

Come along to the BIGGA James Bond evening to be shaken not stirred, including casino and live entertainment

Further details coming soon...

To be held – Tuesday 22 January 2013 @ 7pm to 10:30pm at THE OLD SWAN HOTEL
Swan Road, Harrogate, HG1 2SR

Tickets – £25 each including Arrival Drink, Carvery and Casino Chips

Dress Code – Smart/Casual

To purchase tickets please call Elaine Jones on 01347 833800 (Option 1) or email moneypenny@bigga.co.uk

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Yarmo Wood GC

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These are the ten BIGGA delegates who will visit golf courses in San Diego in January 2013. They have been chosen to attend educational seminars at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Education Conference. Many thanks to all members who applied, and to all those who travelled for interviews. BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croston said: “Once again the standard of applicants was extremely high and the decision on the final ten delegates was a very tricky one. “The successful group will enjoy a fantastic development opportunity on both a professional and a personal basis in San Diego and will, I am sure, represent the Association with distinction. We continue to be extremely grateful for the support from Bernhard & Co who have now allowed over a hundred BIGGA members to enjoy this valuable experience.” Here are the successful delegates currently making plans to jet off to San Diego in February…

LEE BRADY – First Assistant Greenkeeper, Muswell Hill Golf Club

Lee has been greenkeeping for seven years and has gained his Level 2 and Level 3 in Sports Turf. He says he’s really looking forward to going to the States as he believes it will be a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to meet different people across the industry. He expects to be particularly interested to hear different ideas, visit the show and “prostate all the good work BIGGA are doing.”

ROBERT CLARE – Course Manager, Brough Golf Club

Born in Dublin, he worked at several clubs in and around Dublin before leaving to further his education at Myreswvch College, and over the course of 12 years completed his National Certificate, National Diploma and Foundation Degree. He travelled to the USA to join the Ohio State Intern Programme and spent a year working on a course in Perth, Australia. After two years as Course Manager at Birkenhead Golf Club he then joined Golf Club. He’s married with two young sons, and as well as playing golf is a member of a target shooting gun club.

ASA ENGLISH – Deputy Course Manager, Rothley Park Golf Club

Asa began his greenkeeping career in 2002 as Assistant Greenkeeper at Charnwood Forest Golf Club, before moving to his current club. He’s been part of BIGGA’s volunteer support team at The Open Championship on several occasions which he says is “fantastic” for networking and improving as a greenkeeper. He’s really looking forward to the trip which he hopes will be an excellent educational experience.

RICHARD JENKINSON – Deputy Course Manager, G West

Richard, born in St Andrews, spent 13 years at the famous Old Course before moving to Archerfield Links. He then returned to full-time education, studying his HNC in Golf Course Management at Elmwood College. After completing this he joined the team at G West and was involved in all aspects of the final construction stages of the course. He’s married with two young daughters, enjoys golf and football.

TIM JOHNSON – Assistant Greenkeeper, The Wilmshaw Golf Club

Tim’s looking forward to seeing how greenkeeping practices in America compare with the sustainable golf course he works on. He also can’t wait to meet greenkeepers from across the world and see the differences – and similarities – in how they overcome daily problems on their courses. He enjoys playing golf, football and was featured in October’s Greenkeeper International after he helped raise thousands of pounds for charity by pushing hand mowers across England with other Saudi greenerkeepers.

BRUCE HICKS – Head Greenkeeper, Boston Golf Club

Bruce has spent his whole 22-year greenkeeping career at Boston and holds City & Guilds 2 and SVQ 2 qualifications. He is also Secretary and Treasurer for BIGGA’s East of England Section, something he says he gets “enormous satisfaction” from. He adds he feels “very honoured” to have been chosen as a delegate. He has many hobbies including swimming and amateur theatre, and says he’s a “larky sain” by his wife and “driven crazy” by his two teenage kids.

DERRICK JOHNSTONE – Deputy Head Greenkeeper, The Wentworth Club

Derrick started greenkeeping straight from school at 16, and studied for his National Certificate and Higher National Certificate, achieving Student of the Year on both courses. He worked for four years on the West Course at Wentworth before being promoted to Deputy Head Greenkeeper on the Edinburgh Course. He’s worked on 25 televised professional tournaments and been awarded Employee of the Year. He’s married with a six-month old son, and enjoys playing golf, watching football and travelling.

PAUL HARDY – Head Greenkeeper, Newport Golf Club

Paul has worked as a greenkeeper at Newport for 15 years, and became Head Greenkeeper six years ago. He studied for his NVQ in Sports Turf at Penrith College and is currently on a distance learning programme at Elmwood College. He’s been on the BIGGA South Wales Section Committee for five years and is in his second year as chairman. He was a volunteer at the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor in 2010, and says he’s a firm believer in sustainable greenkeeping using traditional greenkeeping practices alongside new techniques. In his spare time he enjoys golf, fishing and motorcycling.

JAMES PARKER – Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Close House Golf & Country Club

James was a student nurse until 2007 when he changed his career path to greenkeeping. He joined Blackwell Grange Golf Club as an apprentice, then three years later was hired by Close House. He’s now been on the support team for four European Tour events. He’s completed his NVQ Level 3 and is about to begin studying for his Higher National Certificate, and is hoping to gain a greater understanding of American training techniques in San Diego. He’s married to Sarah with one young son, and the couple are excitedly expecting another child in April. When time allows he plays golf and follows Leeds United.

PAUL CROFT – Head Greenkeeper, Pendeford Golf Club

Paul has worked at Pendeford Golf Club for 15 years, and has gained his City & Guilds Courses 2 and 3. He has recently qualified as an Education Officer for BIGGA. He has two children and enjoys playing golf and spending time with his family.
Destination San Diego

These are the ten BIGGA members who will be heading to San Diego for the Golf Industry Show next month courtesy of Bernhard – what’s sure to be a once in a lifetime experience.

As well as the GIS, the delegates will visit golf courses in California and attend educational seminars at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Education Conference. Many thanks to all members who applied, and to all those who travelled for interviews. BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton said: “Once again the standard of applicants was extremely high and the decision on the final ten delegates was a very tricky one.

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He’s married with two young sons, and as well as playing golf is a member of a target shooting gun club.

**DANIEL NORSWORTHY – Deputy Course Manager, The Richmond Golf Club**
Daniel began his career at Cranleigh Golf & Leisure Club, and after gaining his Level 2 qualification he joined The Richmond Golf Club. He continued his development, gaining his Level 3, and was offered his current position. He says he’s learnt much from Len Howkins MG at The Richmond.

His dream is to run his own golf course, and in his spare time he enjoys going to the gym, catching up with friends and attempting to play golf.

**TIM JOHNSON – Assistant Greenkeeper, The Wilmalow Golf Club**
Tim’s looking forward to seeing how greenkeeping practices in America compare with the sustainable golf course he works on. He also can’t wait to meet greenkeepers from across the world and see the differences – and similarities – in how they overcome daily problems on their courses.

He enjoys playing golf, football and was featured in October’s Greenkeeper International after he helped raise thousands of pounds for charity by pushing hand mowers across England with other crazed greenkeepers!

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It’s tempting to visit Woburn and depart waffling about the various legends who have graced the fairways before waxing lyrical about the fact all three of their courses have been rated in Golf Monthly Magazine’s top 100 in the UK and Ireland and name-dropping Ian Poulter.

But you’ll already know all of this. However, did you know that the club are embarking on a water resource project of staggering ambition and size? That they’re building a huge reservoir where archaeologists have recently located Roman kilns? That they’re aiming to drastically reduce their annual water bill? Volume usage and we were to be classed as an ‘industrial user’ along with factories and breweries. We would have to forecast our peak usage over the year – known as the Maximum Daily Demand (MDD).

Essentially we were being charged all year round for the one day when we used the most water.

“In theory, this would allow water companies to forecast demand and promote water efficiency measures – but with potentially disastrous financial consequences for golf clubs.”

John adds: “It’s certainly a contentious move, charging industrial prices without removing the possibility of drought restriction seems very punitive. The drought restrictions were never intended to negatively impact upon businesses, but a blanket ban does exactly that for many UK golf courses.

“The change in tariff gave us the added incentive to push forward with plans for bulk storage as we would have a considerable return on investment alongside the environmental benefits of using less water.”

Spring 2010 saw Woburn working closely with Rainbird Irrigation to bring in tools to measure meteorological data and soil moisture levels quickly and easily. We also wanted to be able to manage our systems remotely so we could shut down applications and fill when significant weather events allowed. We checked application rates, nozzle run times and replaced sprinkler heads on our oldest system on the Marquess’ course.

“We also looked at the minimum requirement we would need per night at the height of the season utilising the highest recorded evapotranspiration rates for our site. These figures then had to be balanced with how much storage we had available and how many nights’ use this would provide without filling the tanks on demand.

“Under the Maximum Daily Demand scheme, essentially we were being charged all year round for the one day we used the most water”
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**PROFILE**

Name: John Clarke
Born: Ulverston, Lake District
Marital status: Married with nine-month-old daughter
Handicap: 12
Hobbies: Walking springer spaniel Hesper, mountain biking
Favourite sports team: Liverpool FC

Steve Castle discovers how Woburn Golf Club’s long term water resource strategy is dealing with recent usage restrictions which can hugely affect golf courses.
"We have 1500 cubic metres storage across the site held in three separate tanks, which is barely one day’s’ water for the courses in dry periods because we are able to water wall to wall. We needed something big enough to take the seasonality out of filling and watering and through meticulous planning and design came up with a plan for a tank holding 105,000 cubic metres’ capacity – in other words, a reservoir.”

We then join John’s springer spaniel Hesper to see the reservoir construction at first hand. It’s staggering to see the massive scale of this and it’s fascinating to see teams of archaeologists excavating what will soon become a water storage facility capable of holding so much of the stuff. The archaeologists have even located several ancient Roman kilns (a type of oven for metal work) which need to be painstakingly removed.

To the right of the five hectare site are huge mounds of earth removed, probably 25 feet high showing the extent of the project so far – and the excavators are yet to move in! The reservoir is due to be completed in time for the 2013 season.

All in all, it’s a vast project and John acknowledges an undertaking of this scale is only possible at a large club with significant financial backing and a supportive and knowledgeable owner. However, he’s also eager to stress that a progressive long-term water management strategy is critical and achievable, at any golf club as water bills inevitably climb.

He says: “A smaller model could be adopted in a different location. The bottom line is, we aim to get our water bill down to roughly £25,000 a year. This year, following many mitigation measures we still spent £125,000 so the return on our investment will be within six or seven years.

“The individual Head Greenskeepers and I have had to be extremely diligent and flexible in managing the consumption for three championship courses, using 500m3 per course a night. Our Irrigation Manager Lee Murdoch reads all of our meters, sets up all of the night-time irrigation programmes and forecasts the weekly usage using weather forecasts and soil moisture readings. This gives him the information required to split the MDD figure between the three courses.

“Very early on in the project our entire focus was watering the course according to the bill. We are now trying to get to a point where we water the course in the best interests of the turf, because we’ve eliminated the billing issues.

“We’ve learned a lot along the way about how best to manage this precious asset and I’m sure we’ll need to continue using these principles as our climate continues to change. “This project would not have got off the ground without the support of our consultants WRA, Paul Williams from the Bedford Estates and of course from the Duke of Bedford and the Woburn Board of Trustees.’’

The Club, which is part of the Bedford Estates, aerate monthly with light top dressing and annual hollow coring each August to keep them dry. They aerate into the night under lights and close each of the courses a week in every month of the winter for drainage, aeration and bunker reconstruction. As John says “The healthier the greens are, the harder we can push them.”

When I pulled into Woburn’s car park earlier, I vowed to leave with a much greater understanding of the water resource project, increased knowledge of the water-based challenges facing golf clubs and to refrain from mentioning Ian Poulter at any point in the subsequent article. Ah well, two out of three ain’t bad.

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“We have learned a lot along the way about how best to manage this precious asset and I’m sure we’ll need to continue using these principles as our climate continues to change. “This project would not have got off the ground without the support of our consultants WRA, Paul Williams from the Bedford Estates and of course from the Duke of Bedford and the Woburn Board of Trustees.”

The Club, which is part of the Bedford Estates, aerate monthly with light top dressing and annual hollow coring each August to keep them dry. They aerate into the night under lights and close each of the courses a week in every month of the winter for drainage, aeration and bunker reconstruction. As John says “The healthier the greens are, the harder we can push them.”

When I pulled into Woburn’s car park earlier, I vowed to leave with a much greater understanding of the water resource project, increased knowledge of the water-based challenges facing golf clubs and to refrain from mentioning Ian Poulter at any point in the subsequent article. Ah well, two out of three ain’t bad.
**Winter course management Q&A**

**As the UK shivers through another cold snap, Jim Cook finds out what plans greenkeepers have been putting in place for the winter months.**

### Andrew Geddes – Clitheroe GC

1. **What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?**
   - Fairway drainage, levelling and improvements, topdressing, walling, woodland management, and dealing with e-mails from members.

2. **If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?**
   - We discuss the programme of work six months in advance with the appropriate committee, and produce a monthly course report informing members of the winter programme. Depending on the size of the project, holes may be closed down or shortened.

3. **When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?**
   - Ground conditions will allow. We also have to prioritise and try to carry over the work that can't be done during winter.

4. **Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?**
   - Yes, by choosing the right equipment and monitoring the weather, as well as planning work and communication very carefully.

5. **If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?**
   - We always plan ahead to ensure that all work is completed five months prior to being done. The information is then fed to the members through the notice board, website and newsletter. If members get upset, we explain why the work is important so that everybody concerned knows what is required of them in the coming weeks and months.

Gordon Brammah – Hallamshire GC

1. **What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?**
   - Many and varied depending on a number of factors including course development policies, budget restrictions, availability of equipment and the weather. We have built new tees, putting greens and stone walls, installed drainage systems and improved paths, and every bunker on the course has been rebuilt.

2. **If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?**
   - Communication. Members are more likely to complain about disruption if they are not kept informed about work on the course. We also have open reporting in the clubhouse and a better newsletter on the club’s website.

3. **When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?**
   - Contractors would be used for three main reasons – if specialist equipment is required, if specialist skills are required and if a project has to be completed within a limited timescale. An honest assessment has to be made by the club before pressure is put on to do the work in house.

4. **Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?**
   - Planning is key. Getting major projects completed early in the autumn/winter before the weather closes in will give more time for the course to recover. Have contingency plans for if the weather causes serious delay and don’t proceed with the winter programme.

5. **If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?**
   - Dave maintains a good relationship with the members and the greens committee is essential. Course managers should insist on projects that are not properly planned and funded, and they may have to cut back on the course.

Robert Ransom – Diss GC

1. **What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?**
   - Bunker work, rebuilding and extending teeing areas, and an intensive aeration programme on all areas with verticutter and hollow coring machines. We started a five-year plan last year to rebuild seven greens and improve the very dry root zone material. We are doing the 18th green at the moment.

2. **If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?**
   - At all our work plans are discussed at committee level three to five months prior to being done. The information is then fed to the members through the notice board, website, newsletters and programmes. If they get upset, they complete our winter programme. Our membership will be aware of the conditions to expect.

3. **When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?**
   - Normally we will do all our work in house but we are using contractors to rebuild our greens as they have the proper equipment and expertise to do the work alongside the architect employed by the club. Any large drainage work would also be sub-contracted to someone in that field.

4. **Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?**
   - To a point but normally the weather dictates how much you can achieve. We always try and get the bulk of our winter work done before Christmas. We start projects early in October to make the best of the good weather. We would normally have a reduced aeration programme for wetter days so that at least the operator is inside a tractor cab.

5. **If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?**
   - Get it done early. We need to have these greens in place before Christmas and we have completed the work by the end of February. Planning and communication are important so that everybody concerned knows what is required of them in the coming weeks and months.

Robert Patterson – Royal Aberdeen GC
Winter course management Q&A

As the UK shivers through another cold snap, Jim Cook finds out what plans greenkeepers have been putting in place for the winter months.

Andrew Geddes – Clitheroe GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during winter months?
Fairway drainage, levelling and improving tee surfaces, bunker renovation, improving walkways, woodland management and dealing with e-mails from members.

2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
We discuss the programme of work six months in advance with the appropriate committee, and produce a monthly course report informing members of the winter projects. Depending on the size of the project, holes may be closed down or shortened.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
Ground conditions at Clitheroe aren’t suitable for contractors in the winter, although we have used Duncan Ross to install drains in the summer.

4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
Yes, provide discreet hard standing access areas to the parts of the course where the winter project is taking place, also use boards and ground guards for shorter runs. Try to leave us exposed to the elements.

5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?
We focus on finishing our major ground work before Christmas, smaller projects and woodland management commence in the New Year.

Andrew Mannion – Southernndown GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?
Mostly bunker rebuilding work; we are currently installing rainwater harvesters using Smartwater which will take us through three winters to complete the whole course. We’ll also be resurfacing and building several tees and managing grass on the golf course.

2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
Before any work starts it will be advertised on notice boards and also the club’s website. Because the bulk of our work is bunker related at the moment we use drop zones on any bunkers that are GOR in speed up play and stop any confusion.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
We’re lucky to have a good selection of equipment to enable us to carry out everything in house, I’m also very lucky to have a good team of greenkeepers to work alongside who are able to facilitate the work.

4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
Yes, provide discreet hard standing access areas to the parts of the course where the winter project is taking place, also use boards and ground guards for shorter runs. Try to leave us exposed to the elements.

5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?
We tend to just keep going as much as we can be carried over to the following autumn/winter season will be. I’m lucky the club understand that over the last few years the weather has played a significant part in what we can complete.

Gordon Brammah – Hallamshire GC

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Many and varied depending on a number of factors including course development policies, budget restrictions, available equipment and the weather. We have built new tees, putting greens and stone walls, installed drainage systems and improved paths, and every bunker on the course has been rebuilt.

2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
Communication. Members are more likely to complain about disruption if they are not kept informed about work on the course. A monthly greens report posted in the clubhouse or better still on the club’s website will head off many awkward questions later on.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
Contractors would be used for three main reasons – if specialist equipment is required, if specialist skills are required and if a project has to be completed within a limited timescale. An honest assessment has to be made by the club before pressure is put on to do the work in house.

4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
Planning is the key. Getting major projects completed early in the autumn/winter before the weather closes in will give more time for the course to recover. Have contingency plans for if the weather causes serious delay and don’t over commit with the number and scale of projects planned.

5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?
Due to the good relationship with the members and the greens committee is essential. Course managers should resist taking on projects that are not properly planned and funded and they must fit into a realistic winter programme.

Robert Ransome – Diss GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?
During the winter months we’ll complete a variety of projects such as building and erecting nesting boxes, tees and bunkers, drainage work, temporary greens are required they are prepared well in advance and the membership will be aware of the conditions to expect.

2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
We always try and get the bulk of our winter work done before Christmas. We start projects early in October to make the best of the good weather. We would normally leave aeration work for wetter days so that at least the operator is inside a tractor cab.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
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5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?
Get it done early. We need to have these greens we are rebuilding back in play by April so we have completed the work by the end of October. Planning work and communication is very important so that everybody concerned knows what is required of them in the coming weeks and months.

Robert Patterson – Royal Aberdeen GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during winter months?
Hunker work, rebuilding and extending tee areas, and an intensive aeration programme on all areas with vertidrain and hollow coring machines. We started a five-year plan last year to rebuild seven greens on the main links, in green the very old root zone material. We are doing the 18th green at the moment.

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5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?
For the last 3-4 years we’ve balanced planning work and communication is very important so that everybody concerned knows what is required of them in the coming weeks and months.

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For the last 3-4 years we’ve balanced planning work and communication is very important so that everybody concerned knows what is required of them in the coming weeks and months.
It’s snow joke as winter bites

With a hard winter forecast for this year, the chance of snow cover is a strong possibility. Greenkeepers are reminded not to underestimate the risk of Typhula incarnata to cause Grey snow mould or Fusarium patch (Microdochium nivale) developing into Pink snow mould, should greens be subject to snow.

Dorin Pop, Technical Manager at Bayer, explains that snow cover prevents photosynthesis, reducing the plant metabolism which weakens the turf’s natural defence system.

The snow cover also encourages contact with the snow mould pathogens. Pink snow mould may occur following growth of Fusarium patch from the organic matter in conducive conditions.

He adds: "The snow also incites the turf to an extent. This creates a microclimate which will keep the turf surface moist and unfrozen, providing an ideal habitat for disease to thrive.

“The two diseases most commonly associated with the winter months are Grey snow mould and Pink snow mould.

“Both Grey snow mould and Pink snow mould require periods of cold, wet weather to develop, but Grey snow mould is very localised in the UK. This is because the turf needs to have prolonged snow cover in order for the disease pathogen to develop. For this reason it tends to occur in Scotland and the north of England.”

He adds that Pink snow mould is actually the same strain of Fusarium patch that normally occurs during the year when the conditions are favourable but as the snow melts, white to pink mycelium develops around the margin of patches. Unlike Grey snow mould, this can occur quite quickly under the snow as the pathogens take less time to develop.

“The disease pathogens can survive adverse conditions in plants or organic matter but the disease symptoms are only observed in the winter and early spring encouraged by low temperatures, high moisture in the turf, long grass, excessive nitrogen and excessive top dressing just prior to snow cover. Just like controlling Fusarium patch at any other time of the year, applying a fungicide at the very early stage of disease will avoid any potential scarring of the turf. This is especially important in the winter due to the slow rate of turf growth. Any scarring will take much longer to repair in the colder months and with the expectation now to be able to play golf all year round, prolonged periods of unplayable turf conditions are unlikely to be met favourably.”

During the autumn, golf courses tend to undergo renovation. The activities associated with renovation put a great deal of stress on the turf. Dorin explains that good practice is to stabilise the new turf and the maintenance programme prior to this period. Activities include applying the correct fertiliser, avoiding heavy top dressing, removing any fallen leaves in the autumn and adjusting the height of cut as well as reviewing the sward composition.

He adds that the fundamentals for preventing winter turf disease include maintaining good practices throughout the year. “If due diligence is paid to cultural practices throughout the autumn, alongside a robust fungicidal programme, greenkeepers will really help safeguard their turf throughout the winter.”

As well as delivering appropriate cultural practices in the run up to the cold weather, Dorin advises greenkeepers to apply the fungicides preventatively before the first snow when the ground is not frozen. “Providing the label instructions are adhered to, this treatment should protect the turf while the snow is lying on top.”

However, he notes that if a greenkeeper does experience a situation where snow has fallen on an unprotected green, a contact fungicide can be applied just after snow melt, directly to where the disease symptoms are visible. “Providing the snow hasn’t been lying too long and the disease isn’t too advanced, this should help prevent any further development.”

When considering appropriate products to use in these situations, he explains that Bayer’s product Dedicate® has both a contact and systemic mode of action which offers long-term preventative and early curative control of turf disease.

“It is recommended that Dedicate® should be used up until the stage when the temperature holds significantly and the turf ceases to grow. After this, once the soil temperature drops, I’d suggest using Chipco® Green. It’s a contact fungicide which will remain effective following snow melt and will offer a good level of protection throughout the snow cover.”

He adds that if there is sign of disease after the snow has thawed, then an immediate application of Chipco® Green is recommended. Dedicate® can then be used once the weather begins to warm up and the grass begins to grow again.

Although there may be a temptation to remove the snow from the greens, doing so will inflict added stress and damage to the turf beneath and should be avoided. Walking on the greens when there is heavy snow or frost cover is also not recommended due to compaction.

Dorin adds that frost presents an entirely different challenge to the turf. “Frost actually halts the development of disease pathogens, so if that respect it actually works in a greenkeeper’s favour. However it is often counterproductive because although the disease is restrained, it is essentially dormant. In the meantime, the frost significantly weakens mainly Poa awards, therefore making it more susceptible to the disease pathogens that are still there and that become active once the conditions become favourable.

“Greenkeepers will face much less of a challenge if they adopt a preventative approach to combating disease” it is essentially dormant. In the meantime, the frost significantly weakens mainly Poa awards, therefore making it more susceptible to the disease pathogens that are still there and that become active once the conditions become favourable.

“Greenkeepers will face much less of a challenge if they adopt a preventative approach to combating disease”

While Bayer’s Chipco® Green and Dedicate® have curative properties, the fact that snow could remain on the ground for long periods of time preventing greenkeepers from getting to the turf could have damaging results.

“By the time it melts, the damage could be quite significant and during a period of slow growth, its repair could be long and difficult. In this instance, prevention is certainly the best approach.”
It’s snow joke as winter bites

We chat to a technical expert to find out how to prevent turf diseases as the snow falls.

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above: Examples of pink patch

Dorin Pop, Technical Manager at Bayer
Future shock?

Take a look back over the past 10, 15 or even 20 years and it is clear that whilst some equipment has just got larger and more sophisticated, other items of kit have helped introduce new techniques such as precision overseeding and precise aeration. But what is the next big thing you should be aware of?

At present, the market for totally autonomous mowers is still in its infancy with models, such as the Etesia Robot, having won favour with those seeking a straightforward maintenance mowing system. But the Etesia can be set up to collect golf balls as it mows and only cut grass where it is needed. It’s fitted with five discs running at 3,500rpm. The unit is designed to leave a clean finish over frequently mown turf. Height of cut can be adjusted to between 22mm to 88mm. Workrate is put at 3,600 m²/hr, one machine having the potential to keep up to 20,000m² under control. The unit only moves grass that needs cutting, working at random and returning to a fixed charge point when it runs low on power.

Twenty years ago, a self-propelled fairway mower was seen as something only well-off golf clubs could afford. For some, even a powered hydraulic gang was considered something of a fairway mowing luxury, drag gang sets earning their stripes on many a fairway well into the nineties and beyond. These days, trailed gangs still have a place but ride-on fairway mowers dominate, their cost to performance ratio making them ‘affordable’ for even less well-off courses. Other items of kit that have become ‘mainstream’ include aerators. Again, some may get the forks out to aerate a green but not many. And by aeration it is also worth remembering that hollow coring, deep aeration and the manner in which wide area aeration to include fairways can now be carried out is something a previous generation of greenkeepers would wonder at.

So, what is the big news in machinery development these days? That is not an easy question to answer. As an industry, the golf sector saw great expansion from the 1980s and with it the levels of mechanisation rapidly increased. The last three decades have really seen some new ideas make their mark. Now, however, it could be argued that product development has perhaps overtaken innovation. If you could drive a 1990s era fairway or greens mower alongside a 2012 model you would appreciate that development is every bit as important as innovation. For some this may be seen as an opportunity to suggest you can quietly overlook machinery developments and concentrate upon other aspects of course maintenance. This is to overlook those developments happening all the time. Some are not going to make a revolutionary change to the way...
Good design goes unnoticed. Hunter Industries’ TTS rotor keeps all the innovation unseen and below the green. Featuring Total Top Servicing, TTS is the no-dig solution for simple and quick maintenance, so golfers have more time to play on. With the world’s first DIH- (Decoder-in-Head) capable rotor, you can forget about hundreds of unsightly decoder enclosures on your course. Out of sight, out of mind.

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a course is tended, but they could help save some time or do a job more efficiently.

The key is to keep an eye out for changes, be prepared to try new equipment and not shy away from demonstrations. A good example is to consider a hybrid mower or one with full battery power. Think gang mowers versus ride-on and petrol versus diesel fueling.

In ten years time, will you wonder why you had not given electrical power a go earlier? You can’t take your eye off the ball.

With a 49hp engine and five gangs, the Toro Reelmaster 7000-D is right at the heavy end of fairway mowers, with the capacity to cope with fast growing grass in a season typified by 2012. It offers a 3.07m width of cut and can be set to mow between 6.35mm to 63.5mm. Of course this model is not for everyone but never has there been so much choice. Unless you look you may miss out on a model that is best suited to your specific needs.

Now consider a mainstream model, the John Deere 8500E E-Cut Hybrid mower followed the 2500E greens mower to the UK market, the former first being launched back in 2005. Although this type of mower is not fully electric, hybrids have done a lot to help the all-electric cause, the motors powering the cutting units having proven dependable and efficient.

The Jacobsen Eclipse 322 in its all-electric guise was first seen in 2009, this mower doing away with not just an internal combustion engine but hydraulics too.

Plug in mowing may take a while to become mainstream but few can argue against the appeal of the technology. It has variable mowing speeds to a maximum of 9 km/h and transport speeds up to 14.5km/h. The all-important frequency of cut or clip rate can be adjusted from 1.27mm to 6.35mm for the 11-blade cylinder and 2.03mm to 9.91mm for the 7-cylinder option.

Utility vehicles have long had the option of electric power, but those looking for a general purpose unit that is at home in easy going as it is coping with steep going. Payload is a generous 450kg and maximum speed will be around 25km/h.

Baroness mowers, such as LM283, have no electronics and employ simple levers to raise and lower the units. Options run to 5, 7 or 9 blades and collectors. No groomers or brushes, just easy to adjust and well made cutting units. It has straightforward hydraulics and simple all-wheel traction, but do not confuse this with poor mowing ability. The units are precision items.

So the question remains - do you know just how much equipment choice you have these days?“
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With a 49hp engine and five gangs, the Toro Reelmaster 7000-D is right at the heavy end of fairway mowers, with the capacity to cope with fast growing grass in a season typified by 2012. It offers a 3.07m width of cut and can be set to mow between 6.35mm to 63.5mm. Of course this model is not for everyone but never has there been so much choice. Unless you look you may miss out on a model that is best suited to your specific needs.

Now consider a mainstream model, the John Deere 8500E E-Cut Hybrid mower followed the 2500E greens mower to the UK market, the former first being launched back in 2005. Although this type of mower is not fully electric, hybrids have done a lot to help the all-electric cause, the motors powering the cutting units having proven dependable and efficient.

The Jacobsen Eclipse 322 in its all-electric guise was first seen in 2009, this mower doing away with not just an internal combustion engine but hydraulics too. Plug in mowing may take a while to become mainstream but few can argue against the appeal of the technology. It has variable mowing speeds to a maximum of 9 km/h and transport speeds up to 14.5km/h. The all-important frequency of cut or clip rate can be adjusted from 1.27mm to 6.35mm for the 11-blade cylinder and 2.03mm to 9.91mm for the 7-cylinder option.

Utility vehicles have long had the option of electric power, but those looking for a general purpose unit that is at home in easy going as it is coping with tougher terrain may prefer a petrol or diesel engine. The Cushman Hauler 1200X electric model could change that with its 450kg capacity and power to cope with steep going. Payload is a generous 450kg and maximum speed will be around 25km/h.

Do you know what has changed in the utility vehicle market? Have you tried an e-Gator from John Deere or Toro MDX with battery power?

Baroness mowers, such as LM283, have no electronics and employ simple levers to raise and lower the units. Options run to 5, 7 or 9 blades and collectors. No groomers or brushes, just easy to adjust and well made cutting units. No electronics to worry about. The units are precision items.

So the question remains - do you know just how much equipment choice you have these days?
Weeds are plants in the wrong place and all broad-leaved plants are weeds in managed turf. Rough grasses such as (Yorkshire fog) and Anthoxanthum odorum (sweet vernal grass) and even perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne), the latter widely used in amenity and non-fine sports turf, are weeds in professional sports turf.

Managers wanting greens dedicated to fine turf grasses like bents (Agrostis spp) and fescues (Festuca spp) regard Poa annua as a weed, ‘cut and dried’. Others happily tolerate and use Poa on golf greens and tees.

Weeds may have completely different growth habits outside of managed turf. Creeping buttercup (Ranunculus repens) hugs the ground, its runners slipping unobtrusively through turf, while plants may reach 40cm or higher in uncut grass. Bird’s foot trefoil’s (Lotus corniculatus) behaves in the same way with creeping stems becoming vining stems and using long grass stems for support.

Deciding which plants are weeds is the easy part - identifying them is the harder part. Grouping plants, whether by weed characteristics or plant family, is the easiest way to proceed. Sorting out the Asteraceae (e.g. dandelions and daisies), Fabaceae (clovers), Ranunculaceae (buttercups), Rosaceae (cinquefoils) and Plantaginaceae (plantains) takes around half of turf weeds out of the identification equation.

That done you are left with small distinct groups and individuals such as the plantains, slender speedwell, self-heal, mouse-eared chickweed, sorrel, parsley piert, dove’s-foot cranesbill, and field woodrush (main image) to identify and deal with.

Common weed characteristics

- Ground hugging habit with growing points close to the soil surface to escape the mower’s blades
- Rosette arrangement of leaves and/or mat growth habits blocking light and shade out grasses
- Underground food storage organs like tap roots for anchorage and survival under adverse conditions. Ability to grow new plants from pieces of tap root left in the ground after unsuccessful attempts at physical removal
- Efficient vegetative reproduction by stolons (creeping stems) that ‘slip’ through the turf rooting as they grow to make new plants.
- Ability to grow new plants from stem pieces detached during mowing.
- Choreographed sexual reproduction with flower heads at ground level, a long flowering period sometimes throughout the year (ephemerals). Short seed maturation period, efficient seed dispersal, no special seed germination requirements and accumulation of large seed banks outside of turf.
- Resistance to drought and tolerance of herbicides

Weeds in managed turf

Dandelions and lookalikes (Asteraceae)

A common characteristic of the Asteraceae is composite flower heads of many individual flowers called florets. Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale) and daisy (Bellis perennis) are the most well-known of this plant family.

Dandelion’s success is down to a strong deep seated tap root and a rosette of large light blocking leaves. Dandelions flower through spring and summer to generate large seed banks outside turf. Prostrate biotypes growing in fine turf bear short-stalked flowers which escape mowing.

As summer turf dries out dandelions are matched by weeds which closely resemble dandelions and have the same weed credentials. Most common is cat’s ear (Hypochaeris radicata) with rosettes of leaves close to the ground and long floppy tap roots with similar capacities for regeneration following unsuccessful attempts to dig them out. Prolific seed set and efficient
weeds are plants in the wrong place and all broad-leaved plants are weeds in managed turf. Rough grasses such as (Yorkshire fog) and Anthoxanthum odoratum (sweet vernal grass) and even perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne), the latter widely used in amenity and non-fine sports turf, are weeds in professional sports turf.

Managers wanting greens dedicated to fine turf grasses like bents (Agrostis spp) and fescues (Festuca spp) regard Poa annua as a weed, ‘cut and dried’. Others happily tolerate and use Poa on golf greens and tees.

Weeds may have completely different growth habits outside of managed turf. Creeping buttercup (Ranunculus repens) hugs the ground, its runners slipping unobtrusively through turf, while plants may reach 40cm or higher in uncut grass. Bird’s foot trefoil’s (Lotus corniculatus) behaves in the same way with creeping stems becoming vining stems and using long grass stems for support.

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That done you are left with small distinct groups and individuals such as the plantains, slender speedwell, self-heal, mouse-eared chickweed, sorrel, parsley piert, dove’s-foot cranesbill, and field woodrush (main image) to identify and deal with.

Common weed characteristics

Turf weeds have one or more characters in common:
- Ground hugging habit with growing points close to the soil surface to escape the mower’s blades
- Rosette arrangement of leaves and/or mat growth habits blocking light and shade out grasses
- Underground food storage organs like tap roots for anchorage and survival under adverse conditions. Ability to grow new plants from pieces of tap root left in the ground after unsuccessful attempts at physical removal
- Efficient vegetative reproduction by stolons (creeping stems) that ‘slip’ through the turf rooting as they grow to make new plants.
- Choreographed sexual reproduction with flower heads at ground level, a long flowering period sometimes throughout the year (ephemerals). Short seed maturation period, efficient seed dispersal, no special seed germination requirements and accumulation of large seed banks outside of turf
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Weeds in managed turf

Dandelions and lookalikes (Asteraceae)

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As summer turf dries out dandelions are matched by weeds which closely resemble dandelions and have the same weed credentials.

Most common is cat’s ear (Hypochaeris radicata) with rosettes of leaves close to the ground and long fleshy tap roots with similar capacities for regeneration following unsuccessful attempts to dig them out. Prolific seed set and efficient...
Mouse-ear hawkweed (Hieracium pilosella) lacks a tap root but has creeping stems arising from a rosette of stiff leaves curved and furry just like the rodent’s ear. Mouse-ear hawkweed is the easiest of the ‘dandelion-like’ weeds to control.

Common daisy has rosettes of spoon shaped leaves with scalloped edges. Creeping stems produce an extensive mat of leaf rosettes especially in ‘shaved’ and compacted turf.

The composite flower comprising outer white ray florets and bright yellow inner disc florets closes at night, hence the old English name ‘days-eye’ from which the contemporary name ‘daysy’ evolved.

That’s not quite the end of the Asteraceae because a number other plants which are not generally found in fine turf can invade and exploit damaged turf on tees by using, sun exposed divots as germination sites. These include common ragwort (Senecio jacobea) and sowthistles (Sonchus spp), common ragwort (Senecio jacobea) and sowthistles (Sonchus spp), and exploit damaged turf on tees close to large seed-banks such as those on railway embankments. Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) is the worst weed the Asteraceae has to offer and one of the most difficult turf weeds to control. Creeping stems root at intervals facilitating strong spread, while the finely divided waxy leaves make yarrow high resistant to drought. Yarrow leaves are hard to wet making it difficult to effectively cover this weed with herbicide sprays.

Close up on the clovers (Fabaceae)

White clover (Trifolium repens) – A perennial fast forming weed colonising turf by creeping stems which root at the nodes. Dark green trifoliate leaves are borne on slender and erect leaf stalks and each leaflet has a white band or ‘halo’ near to its base. White clover has a long flowering period from May to October. White flower heads sometimes tinged with pink are borne on long slender pedicels (flower stalks). Bird’s foot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus) – Also a perennial clover ‘with creeping stems which do not root, even though they grow just beneath the soil surface. A sturdy taproot anchors the plant and confers high resistance to drought. Leaves (Trifolium corniculatum) but actually bear an additional pair of bract-like leaflets close to the stem to make five leaflets in all. Bird’s foot trefoil is fast-spreading and mat-forming especially on well-drained soils derived from sand, chalk or limestone. It flowers from May to August with attractive yellow/orange heads streaked with red and comprising 5-8 pea-like flowers.

Lesser trefoil (Trifolium dubium) – Though only an annual weed lesser trefoil yellow sucking clover) is more difficult to control than white clover. Creeping stems are slender and fast growing but do not root like those of white clover. However, it still manages to colonize large patches of turf especially on dry non-acidic soils when the grass is sparse. A long flowering period from May to October produces a succession of small, round and pale yellow flower heads.

Black medick (Medicago lupina) – Black medick is not a common weed but will show up on dry impoverished turf. With slender creeping stems, a prostrate habit and well-defined trifoliate leaves it is difficult to distinguish from lesser trefoil. Unlike lesser trefoil each leaflet ends in sharp point and is hairy and feels sticky to touch.

Ramunculaceae, Rosaceae and Plantaginaceae

Three species of buttercup may crop up in turf although creeping buttercups (Ranunculus repens) with its ground hugging habit and rooting runners is the biggest problem for fine turf, spreading aggressively in neglected areas especially on heavy wet soils. Bulbous buttercup (R. bulbosus) does not have runners but a bulbous base acting as a food store and survival organ.

Meadow buttercup (R. acris) is one of a problem in amenity grassland, growing fast in uncut lawns to produce a mass of tall yellow flowers starting in May. Not all bright yellow flashes are turf weeds. Meadow buttercup (R. acris) is a weed of amenity grassland, growing fast in uncut lawns to produce a mass of tall yellow flowers starting in May.

Dove’s-foot cranesbill (Geranium molle) a tiny wild geranium with spreading stems, pink flowers, long-beaked fruits and prominently lobed flat leaves which give the name; and tufted leaf rosettes of pearlwort (Sagina procumbens) the most diminutive of all.

Tiny trio

Tiny turf weeds are difficult to spot in the cold light of late winter afternoons, when greenkeepers get first insights into what spring will bring. These include parley pear (Euphorbia pyramidalis) with lanced parley-like leaves and creeping hairy stems; dove’s foot cranesbill (Geranium molle) a tiny wild geranium with spreading stems, pink flowers, long-beaked fruits and prominently lobed flat leaves which give the name; and tufted leaf rosettes of pearlwort (Sagina procumbens) the most diminutive of all.

A rush which looks like a grass

Field woodrush (Luzula campestris) looks and grows like a grass which makes it difficult to distinguish virtually impossible to control with herbicides without damaging turf grasses.

Field woodrush shows up during spring as large patches of chestnut coloured panicles (flower heads) evident on fairways, especially if mowing is delayed by very wet weather.
wind dispersal of hairy fruits, like those of dandelion, allows efficient colonisation of threadbare turf.

Smooth hawk’s-beard (Crepis capillaris) with rosettes of jagged leaves is very hard to distinguish from dandelion, but the flowers are smaller with several per stalk. Like dandelion it has a long fluffy tap root and is just as difficult to shift.

Mouse-eared hawkweed (Hieracium pilosella) lacks a tap root but is just as difficult to shift. Bird’s-foot-trefoil is fast-spreading and mat-forming especially on well-drained soils derived from sand, chalk or limestone. It flows from May to August with attractive yellow/orange heads streaked with red and comprising 5-8 pea-like flowers.

Lesser trefoil (Trifolium dubium)

Though only an annual weed lesser trefoil yellow suckling clover is more difficult to control than white clover. Creeping stems are slender and fast growing but do not root like those of white clover. However, it still manages to colonise large patches of turf especially on dry non-acidic soils when the grass is sparse. A long flowering period from May to October produces a succession of small, round and pale yellow flower heads.

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Field woodrush (Luzula campestris) looks and grows like a rush which looks like a grass but can grow in turf. It has a rosette of lance-shaped leaves. All thrive in shaded turf on dry or well-drained soils.

Die-hard duo

Slender speedwell and self-heal, two totally unrelated weeds, are among the most frequently occurring and difficult to shift from fine turf.

Slender speedwell is not the sort weed you notice until its mauve-blue flowers appear in spring. Though rarely setting viable seed it is one of the fastest spreading weeds of managed turf. Mowing spreads slender speedwell, the pieces of cut stem carried on grass cutting equipment to fall off and root elsewhere.

Self-heal is one of the smaller members of the mint and nettle family (Labiate) with prostrate biotypes common in managed turf. Prostrate creeping stems root at the nodes to make compact spreading plants. Self-heal is unlikely to go unnoticed in turf. From June to October erect and square cross-sectioned (angular) flowering stems bear thick, tubular clusters of tiny bright blue flowers.

Tiny trio

Tiny turf weeds are difficult to spot in the cold light of late winter afternoons, when greenkeepers get their first insights into what spring will bring. These include parley pear (Anthriscus sylvestris) with bunched parsley-like leaves and creeping hairy stems, dove’s foot cranebill (Geranium molle) a tiny wild geranium with spreading stems, pink flowers, long-beaked fruits and prominently lobed flat leaves which give the name, and tufted leaf rosettes of pearlwort (Sagina procumbens) the most diminutive of all.

A rush which looks like a grass

Field woodrush (Luzula campestris) looks and grows like a grass which makes it difficult to distinguish virtually impossible to control with herbicides without damaging turf grasses.

Field woodland (Ranunculus auxillaris) looks and grows as a grass which makes it difficult to distinguish virtually impossible to control with herbicides without damaging turf grasses.

The very broad-leaved Plantago major (broad-leaved plantain) and P. media (foary plantain or lamb’s tongue), with oval prominently ribbed leaves, are distinguished by the latter having ‘no’ leaf stalk. P. lanceolata (tall plantain) has a rosette of lance-shaped leaves. All thrive in shaded turf on dry or well-drained soils.
Open Support Team Volunteers 2013

How you can follow in the footsteps of golfing legends at Muirfield 2013

Do you fancy the chance to walk alongside the world’s leading golfer at one of the finest courses in the world?

This was the amazing reward for several days of extremely hard work – and lack of sleep – for BIGGA members from across the UK, America and Australia at the thrilling Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club last July.

In 2013, the legendary links at Muirfield in East Lothian host the thrilling Open and this is your chance to follow in the footsteps of Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and reigning champion Ernie Els.

There may also be late nights on duty duty.

But, as previous attendees testify, the experience is one to tell the grandchildren about – not to mention a chance to enjoy the superb camaraderie within the team and meet members from across the world.

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

The first tee shot will be struck on Thursday 18 July, with the final putt sunk on Sunday 21 July.

As anyone who has previously worked as a member of the Support Team will tell you, it’s extremely hard work with early mornings preparing the course for the likes of Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and reigning champion Ernie Els.

The application process is transparent and we’ll then allocate candidates.

We need 54 volunteers who will play their part in ensuring a successful tournament.

The application process is transparent and we’ll then allocate various roles from the selected candidates.

To apply please fill in the application form and enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Aldwark, York YO61 1UF. Closing date is 31st January 2013. You will be notified in February if you have been successful.
Do you fancy the chance to work at The Open Championship 2013...with the once in a lifetime opportunity to walk alongside the world’s leading golfers at one of the finest courses in the world?

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In 2013, the legendary links at Muirfield in East Lothian host the tournament which will be eagerly followed by tens of thousands behind the ropes and millions on TV.

But we’re giving you the opportunity to get inside the ropes - working alongside the excellent team at Muirfield led by Colin Irvine and with support from the team at BIGGA HQ.

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How do you apply?

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I have applied for/appeared on the team at:

Royal Lytham & St Annes, 2012
Royal St George’s, 2011
St Andrews, 2010
Turnberry, 2009
Royal Birkdale 2008

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

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