**INDUSTRY UPDATE**

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

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**BARONESS MOWER IS WELSH WIZARD**

The Head Greenkeeper of Llandrinod Wells Golf Club has given his full backing to baroness after purchasing one of the company's Greens Mowers.

Head Greenkeeper Eric Read is pictured with Terry Harrison of Terry Harrison Machinery after they delivered a new Baroness 315 Greens Mower to the Powys-based club.

Eric said: “After trialling several brands of Greens Triplex Mowers the Baroness Mower was an easy choice. Many outstanding features came to the fore, such as the excellent traction on our hilly course, its agile 367"

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**BIGGA SEMINAR AT SALTEX**

Michael Fane, Senior Technical Army Sales Manager for Efretens, will be co-presenting with Dr Simon Watson from Syngenta as part of the BIGGA seminar programme on Wednesday 4th September.

Their seminar, an integrated approach to disease management on golf greens, takes place at 1pm in the grandstand. One BIGGA CPD point is available to CPD-registered greenkeepers who attend.

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**EX GREENKEEPER JOINS BAYER**

Bayer CropScience has appointed turfgrass protection specialist, Dr Colin Mumford as their new Technical Support Manager. He brings a wealth of experience and replaces Dorin Pop who has moved elsewhere within Bayer.

Colin has been involved in the sports turf industry for nearly 25 years. With hands-on, course management experience, Colin was previously Head Greenkeeper at North Weald Golf Club in Essex, before returning to full-time education where he gained a BSc (Hons) in Landscape and Amenity Management from Writtle College, as well as an MSc in Sports Surface Technology and an Engineering Doctorate (EngD) from Cranfield University.

Since completing his studies Colin has worked in New Zealand as the Technical Officer for the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute, which exposed him to a variety of artificial and natural turf sports surfaces. Colin returned to the UK and spent two years as Technical Manager for an artificial sports surface specialist, where his role was to develop the company's products and services, as well as advising clients on the construction, maintenance, and redevelopment of artificial sports surfaces.

Colin has become a respected authority within the industry and has presented at national and international conferences. He has had several papers published and has also written numerous articles for trade journals.

He said: “This is a very exciting opportunity for me at Bayer CropScience. It offers me the opportunity to utilise all the skills and knowledge I have accumulated in the sports turf industry, and I’m looking forward to supporting turf managers in developing effective and practicable solutions in crop protection.”

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**GREENKEEPER TRAINING - EUROPE**

Greenkeeper Training - Europe (GT-E) is pleased to announce they have been successful in a joint European Union (EU) project bid.

The project, which will commence in October, has eight partners, and is scheduled to be completed in two years. David Golding, GT-E’s Standards Director, explained that the project’s main aim is to development, test and introduce a Quality Assured Scheme for greenkeeper training which involves the following countries, colleges and organisations:

* Kao College, Finland
* Benesov College, Czech Republic
* Crels Greenkeepers Association
* Kaimu College, Lithuania
* Linna Vocational Training Centre, Estonia
* Elmhurst College, Scotland
* Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association

* Greenkeeper Training - Europe

David, pictured below, added: “Several partners in the project have experience in developing, delivering and monitoring greenkeeper education and training over many years. Their knowledge and experience will prove invaluable to assist golf developing countries looking to establish a quality structure of greenkeeper education and training, best suited to their country status of the GT-E.”

David believes even more countries will benefit from the project as GT-E is always looking to advise and give guidance to countries with little or no formal structure in greenkeeper training.

Greenkeepers will be at the very heart of the project, supported by the various colleges. There will be a real emphasis on engaging golf club employers as they benefit from investing in greenkeeper training by having better maintained and managed golf courses.

The GT-E, which is based at Aldwark near York, is currently funded through a special RAJA project and is currently working with the European Golf Association and its 43 member Federations and Unions to establish core funding to assist with the administration and management of the GT-E.

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**Drought conditions are something that not all greenkeepers may have experience of after our recent wet summers. Alex Hawkins, Regional Technical Manager for Headland Amenity, is a former Course Manager and has first-hand knowledge of tackling this challenging problem - knowledge that has become invaluable.”

During his six years at Sixth Winchester Golf Club keeping moisture in the greens was probably the biggest challenge that he and his greens crew had to face. The 210-acre course is located on the South Downs chalk belt that runs through the area. The site is at a high elevation and extremely exposed to the sun and to wind from all directions. The greens and tees are also constructed from very coarse sand providing little in the way of moisture or nutrient retention.

“Essentially our winter advantage was our summer Achilles heel” says Alex. “Even though recent summers had not been the driest, the rate at which the tees and greens dried out, demanded a rethink. Myself and my deputy made a ‘hit list’ of the worst affected areas and we started out on a monthly wetting agent plan to blanket spray the greens with Headland Tricure AD supplementing with the Tricure ‘Tailoring’ product to maximise water into the root zone and keep it there. It will also reduce the stress resulting in less Anthracnose (which in my first year had been a huge problem in the latter part of summer).”

“We repeated this at the beginning of each season and found ourselves using less water to keep the greens alive. This was especially pertinent as we had to draw water at high cost from the mains once the lakes dried out. The Granular Tricure AD, in particular, made the best use of any rainwater, our irrigation water and even drawing down dew.

“This is all highly relevant at the present time as we find ourselves in the first really hot, dry period for some six or seven years. Utilising a high performance water retention product to maximise water efficiency and prevent Dry Patch is essential in such conditions.

The key now is to maintain regular liquid applications and to not water until your turf has reached its permanent wilting point and cannot be brought back. Acting quickly when required by spot treating with Tricure pellets will maximise your opportunities to get water into the root zone and keep it there. It will also reduce the stress associated with turf diseases such as Anthracnose.”

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**GREENKEEPER TRAINING - AMERICA**

Greenkeeper Training - America (GT-A) was recently awarded a grant by the USGA Turfgrass Institute for a new project that will evaluate the effectiveness of technology for improving greenkeeper education and training.

The project aims to develop a comprehensive technology-based greenkeeper education and training delivery model that is adaptable across all golf courses.

The project will involve the development of an online library of greenkeeper educational resources, including training programmes, lesson plans, and case studies. The library will be accessible to greenkeepers at all levels of experience, allowing them to learn at their own pace and in their own time.

The project will also include the development of a greenkeeper training management system that will allow golf courses to track and monitor the progress of their greenkeepers. The system will provide real-time feedback to greenkeepers and golf course managers, allowing them to identify areas for improvement and to adjust training programmes as needed.

The project is expected to last two years. When completed, the technology-based greenkeeper education and training delivery model will be implemented at a select number of golf courses in the United States.

The head greenkeeper at Winchester Golf Club, Alex Hawkins, expressed his excitement about the project:

“Technology has the potential to revolutionise greenkeeper education and training. It provides a flexible and accessible way for greenkeepers to learn new skills and become more effective in their roles. The project will help ensure that greenkeepers have the knowledge and skills they need to provide the best possible service to golf courses and their members.”

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**HEADLAND’S TRICURE BANISHES TURF STRESS AND DRY PATCH TO GREAT EFFECT**

The key to surviving dry periods is to ensure the soil structure is as robust as possible. This means keeping the soil in a loose, fluffy condition to allow water to penetrate the root zone, and to avoid the formation of hard pans. A healthy soil structure promotes water infiltration, reducing the risk of dry patch and drought stress.

Headland’s Tricure is a wetting agent that enhances water infiltration and retention, ensuring that water is available to the roots for as long as possible. It promotes root growth and health, improving the overall condition of the turf.

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