

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Published by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

£5.20 **AUGUST 2014**

NTT Data TheOpen.com NTT Data

12.57 PM **LEADERBOARD** ROUND 1

POS	LEADER AT -5	RND	HOLE	TOT	POS	LEADER AT -5	RND	HOLE	TOT
T1	M. MANASSERO	-5	F	-5	T3	J. FURYK	-4	18	-4
T1	R. MCILROY	-5	14	-5	T3	S. GARCIA	-4	18	-4
T3	B. KOEPKA	-4	F	-4	T8	R. KARLSSON	-3	F	-3
T3	E. MOLINARI	-4	F	-4	T8	M. LEISHMAN	-3	F	-3
T3	F. MOLINARI	-4	F	-4	T8	K. ODA	-3	F	-3

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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the
British and International Golf Greenkeepers
Association Limited.



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Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

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ISSN: 0961-6977

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Rickie Fowler with Paul Armour

A festival of greenkeeping

What a festival of British greenkeeping we have just experienced. All aspects of the professional game have focused on classic British Royal links courses. The Scottish Open headed for the first time to the fantastic Royal Aberdeen Golf Club where Robert Patterson and his team prepared the links and Justin Rose continued his amazing form with victory.

In the same week the Women's British Open was held at Royal Birkdale Golf Club on a course beautifully manicured by Chris Whittle and his team. At the time of writing golfing legends are pitting their wits against Royal Porthcawl Golf Club in the Senior British Open. This well deserved opportunity puts the spotlight on Ian Kinley and his team and we know they will be up to the task.

The main course in this feast of links golf was the Open Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Rory McIlroy's stunning performance was matched only by the glorious condition of the Hoylake course.

Craig Gilholm, his team and the many volunteers that joined his crew presented this fabulous corner of the Wirral immaculately and praise was lavished on the trueness of the greens by many of the players. The Open Championship is quite simply the greatest golf tournament in the world, loved for the beautiful and challenging courses that it visits, the knowledgeable and enthusiastic galleries and the many little traditions that make it unique. It is gratifying to see the Head Greenkeeper/ Links Superintendent be invited to be part of the official presentation party and receive the congratulations of the R&A and the galleries.

As usual BIGGA assembled a Support Team of volunteers to provide match raking and an additional resource for the Championship should it be required. Clad in unusually bright shirts this year at one point it looked as though

the Association had formed a tribute group to eventual runner up Rickie Fowler!

It was a great networking and development opportunity for those greenkeepers. I would like to thank the R&A for working with us to provide such a quality support team.

From a business perspective the Open Championship provides a great opportunity to engage with the wider golf industry and also many of our commercial partners present during the week. As the recent launch of England Golf's Strategic Plan demonstrates the golf industry has, in my view, never been more joined up and we at BIGGA are determined to play our part in helping the game recover from a tough period.

This recent flurry of international Championships will undoubtedly prompt nominations for one of the Industry Awards that will be unveiled at the IOG Awards in partnership with BIGGA. One of the Awards is specifically for Championship Greenkeeping Performance and I encourage our members to view the criteria for nomination and put forward the team that you believe most warrants the Award. Please visit www.iogawards.com to nominate.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO

AUGUST 2014

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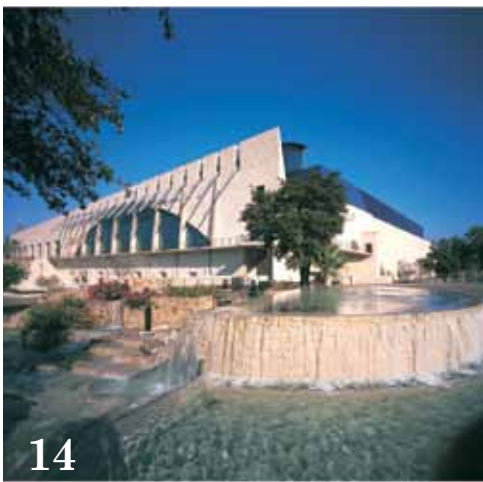
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British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL
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LEADERBOARD
THE OPEN 2014

Pos	Name	Score	Par	Strokes
1	M. MANASSERO	71	-1	71
2	A. MCLEOD	72	0	72
3	A. KOSKKA	73	+1	73
4	E. MOLNARI	74	+2	74
5	F. MOLNARI	75	+3	75
6	K. DOH	76	+4	76

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Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Chris Sealey, gives his thoughts for the month

A proud week for greenkeeping

I'm putting these notes together in the aftermath of The Open and am proud to say it was a fantastic week. The main challenge for me has been putting it all in order for this month's column and making sure not to leave anything out! So many people played such a big part in making the greenkeeping side of things a success.

Firstly, I'd like to praise the efforts of Royal Liverpool Golf Club's Links Manager Craig Gilholm, his greenkeeping team and all the volunteers who joined them in the weeks before the tournament. They produced an absolutely stunning golf course.

The interesting thing was that it was even better in person than it looked on TV. It looked a little green on the screen, but when you were out there I can assure you it was a true links course, fantastic to see.

The whole BIGGA Support Team gelled really well. It was great to see lots of first-timers excitedly joining in, and the younger guys were absolutely buzzing, putting photos on Facebook and Twitter and really promoting what they were doing. Yet again some real friendships have been made.

The whole team stood out – particularly in their pink, then orange polo shirts during the last two rounds – and were professional, committed and dedicated during what is a tiring week.

For the first time in Open history everyone had to deal with a two-tee start on the Saturday. It's unusual for me to pick out individuals as the whole week is a true team effort, but Rob Welford, Course Manager at Cleethorpes Golf Club, excelled in ensuring the rakers, scorers and scoreboard carriers made it to the 10th tee, which was so far from the first tee they had to get a bus. And he got soaked to the skin doing it too! Well done Rob.

The rain made the bunkers more difficult to rake on Saturday as the sand was wet on top and dry underneath. The sand became 'sticky' which required extra effort but there were no complaints or problems, which showed what a good job had been done.

The two-tee start proved to be the right call by the R&A as we experienced 90 minutes of torrential rain just after play had finished on the Saturday. Yet within



Chris prepares to rake on the Friday for Ian Poulter, Dustin Johnson and Jimmy Walker

“It was great to see lots of first-timers joining in, and the younger guys were absolutely buzzing”

two hours, the home greenkeeping team was out cutting fairways – a superb effort.

While I was stood close to the first tee checking the guys in on Sunday morning, several of the match referees commended the team on how well the bunkers had been raked. Rhodri Price, the R&A's Championship Operations Director, also praised the team's work. This is the sort of thing that makes me proud to be Chairman of the Association – well done to all.

The week also provides an opportunity for BIGGA to interact with many other key golf industry bodies, many members who come out to watch the golf and also a number of our key suppliers and partners. The Association has come a long way over the years and it is very encouraging to witness the level of awareness of our work and the progress we have made.

The BIGGA Board of Management took the opportunity during the week to meet to

discuss our ongoing Governance Review, this is vital work as we strive to ensure the Association is governed effectively at all levels.

I'd like to congratulate the BIGGA House team – particularly Rachael, the two Traceys and Sandra – for their efforts. Keeping 60 guys in order is not an easy job (!) but they did it superbly.

Greenkeepers are often (unfortunately) unsung heroes, but the Royal Liverpool team, all the volunteers and the BIGGA Support Team made a real impression on everybody during this Open Championship, and helped create some long lasting memories.

Chris

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Funding your future

The funding and assistance provided by BIGGA Partners and BIGGA Education Supporters underpins the Association's considerable investment in Continuing Professional Development and all our educational activity. They are investing in the future of BIGGA members, we are hugely grateful and urge you to show them your support



Individual Contributors: Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS, W J Rogers, Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann, Nick Gray, Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn, Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild, Michael Beaton, David Barker, Greg Evans



NOMINATE A GREENKEEPER FOR NEW IOG INDUSTRY AWARDS

Entries are now being accepted for this year's Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) 2014 Industry Awards in partnership with BIGGA. The awards recognise the skill of groundsmanship across all main professional sports, as well as education, volunteer and grassroots sports at all levels, plus new for this year are awards for excellence in greenkeeping.

Nominations can easily be made online at www.iogawards.com for the only industry-wide annual awards that acknowledge the important contribution made by grounds care and greenkeeping staff to the high standards of playing surfaces and the sustainability of British sport.

The results will be announced at the MK Dons Stadium in Milton Keynes on Thursday 4 December, following the IOG's 2014 Sports Turf Conference.

The successful Awards will be the sixth in the annual series. They highlight the high standards of volunteer and professional grounds staff and facilities, from grassroots to professional stadia level. Covering categories such as sport, young people and the environment, the awards are judged by an independent panel on criteria that include effective use of resources, budgetary control, presentation and housekeeping standards, as well as environmental considerations.

In addition to revised categories that recognise the efforts of professional grounds care teams, plus additional awards that celebrate excellence at grassroots level, also new this year are three awards for the golf industry. The IOG has joined forces with BIGGA to introduce three categories that will recognise the achievements

of greenkeepers the length and breadth of the UK, whether they are employed at large multi-course facilities or smaller venues.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO, said: "The IOG Industry Awards is a fantastic occasion during which we celebrate great achievement in the groundsmanship industry. I'm delighted that we are partnering

with the IOG to introduce greenkeeping awards. The sponsors and supporters of the event see great value in the opportunity to bring the entire turf management industry together to reward the remarkable achievements of its practitioners."

To nominate and view the three BIGGA Award categories, visit www.iogawards.com





JAMES'S DESTINY CALLING AT ST ANDREWS

James Hutchinson, former Ecology Manager at Fairhaven Golf Club, has taken up the newly created role of Environment Officer at St Andrews Links Trust.

The home of golf identified a need to create this position to monitor all environmental matters on the site, plan and implement a range of measures including waste management and carry out a study on species present amongst many other duties.

St Andrews Links Trust's Director of Greenkeeping Gordon Moir explained: "With seven courses there's a huge amount which can get done. Although the Course Managers, myself and many of the team are keen to keep improving our environmental credentials, none of us have a huge level of expertise nor the time to build on what we do know. I felt the time was right to bring in someone who can take us to that next level."

James's role is initially to create a schedule of work including habitat surveys, dune erosion monitoring, species counts, social media updates, liaising with the countryside ranger, SSSI protection, GEO data input and wildlife presentations.

James said: "I have a good history of greenkeeping practices therefore I can help the greenkeepers during the busy golfing periods of the year. I also have an in-depth knowledge of golf course ecology, conservation and nature identification which is imperative for an individual to succeed in this type of role. I feel that there are lots of greenkeepers suited to work at St Andrews and there are lots of ecologists who would also be suited to the role – but not too many who can perform both!"

James has been a greenkeeper since 1988 and has always maintained a very keen interest in wildlife and the environment. During his time at Fairhaven in charge of all environmental matters he won several industry awards, and has been awarded an R&A Scholarship and a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship supported by Jacobsen.

He said: "One of the first projects I would like to initiate is placing a few wildlife sightings books in the clubhouses and the maintenance facilities.

"This is an easy way to attract a golfer's attention. I will keep BIGGA and its members up to date on how the position unfolds, but for now, I cannot wait to make an impact!"



THANKS TO SCOTTISH OPEN VOLUNTEERS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who gave up their time at a very busy time of year to help prepare the golf course each day for the Scottish Open. We had a great mix of greenkeepers, some from as far afield as New Zealand, London and all around Scotland.

They embraced the challenge each day and we covered all the work in little over two hours. We were well fed and watered by Take 5 caterers each day.

I would also like to thank the following companies- Greentech Sportsturf Ltd, Fairways GM, John Deere and Double A, Bernhard & Co, Tacit, Floratine, Barenbrug and Andersons for the support they gave before and during the event.

Finally I would like to thank my own staff for their commitment to ensuring that the event was a success during the long hours in the weeks leading up to and during the tournament.

Well done lads and thank you again.

Robert Patterson, Course Manager, Royal Aberdeen GC

NEW SHEDS AT SHERBORNE

A terrific team effort between greenkeepers and members has seen a dilapidated maintenance facility transformed at Sherborne Golf Club.

The Dorset-based club previously had sheds which were so old they were becoming a health and safety concern for the team.

But members raised a phenomenal £30,000 through a range of activities, and plans for a new facility were drawn up by Course Manager Chris Watson and Chairman of Green Ray Pearce. Another £55,000 was funded by a landscaping project.

Over the last two years members and greenkeepers have teamed up with members laying the concrete floor and assisting with other tasks, and greenkeepers working to reroute

irrigation, electrics, telephone lines and install water.

Chris and his team of four (plus an apprentice) have done this while maintaining the 23-hole site with 124 hectares to cut, and Chris is proud of their work.

He said: "It's been a real team effort. We've done work on this facility when we could, as well as maintaining the course.

"The members have been terrific – this year's men's captain even chose the golf club as his charity to support what we've been trying to do.

"Everyone at the club recognised that to provide the best course possible, we needed more modern, larger and safe facilities to work from and I'm delighted to say that's what we've got."

ENHANCE TURF HEALTH TO CUT STRESS EFFECTS

Visitors to Turf Science Live were the first to see a demonstration of new research into turf health enhancement programmes designed to counter the effects of stress and give the chance to maintain better playing surfaces right through the season.

New research at the Syngenta Turf R&D site at Stein in Switzerland has highlighted how some products have been found to have turf health benefits over and above their primary role - which can give added benefits for turf quality and particularly in delaying the onset of stress effects, reports Dr Louis Simard, pictured right.

Some of the science behind the turf enhancement involves increasing the plant's levels of anti-oxidants, which gives it a natural buffer against damaging free radicals that are created during cell division under periods of stress conditions. The higher the level of available anti-oxidant, the better the plant is able to cope with stress before any damaging effects are seen.

Consider the case of where adverse weather and the presence of turf disease spores could conspire to create conditions where an outbreak would be expected, but no infection occurs; which is largely down to healthy plants having sufficient anti-oxidants to naturally withstand and repress the disease attack. However, if there are other stresses imposed on the turf at the same time, possibly drought or nutrient deficiency, the infection is far more likely to take hold and cause damage.

The analogy is that it is similar to a healthy person being able to avoid catching a cold, whilst another who is tired or otherwise stressed is far more likely to succumb. Foods and drinks known to stimulate anti-oxidants in the body are recognised at helping to offset the effects of stress, in just the same way that greenkeepers can use tools to manage turf more effectively.

Regulating turf growth has become an industry standard to deliver cost savings from reducing mowing frequency and time, along with improved playing surface quality through greater density,



leaf vigour, colour and rooting with Primo Maxx programmes (above, treated left; untreated right). Furthermore, over the course of the season, the level of anti-oxidants in turf plants has been shown to increase by up to 40%, compared to untreated.

Part of this is believed to be through direct effects on the turf plant, but also, by increasing the chlorophyll concentration in the leaf, it is photochemically more efficient and can generate its own anti-oxidant capability.

This is especially important in building up the buffer of stress busting anti-oxidants that can enable turf to stay looking good for longer. It is a key component of pre-stress conditioning with Primo Maxx, which has proven highly effective in managing drought

stress and maintaining the root mass over the summer. Untreated turf typically suffers a serious decline in root mass during periods of hot weather, which limits its ability to withstand any other stresses and slows the potential to recover when conditions improve.

Scandinavian turf research has shown some outstanding results where the build-up of carbohydrate root mass and enhanced turf health over late summer and early autumn under a Primo Maxx programme had resulted in more than 80% reduction in Microdochium (Fusarium) Patch disease damage during the winter.

Principally used for preventing disease attacks from late spring through to the autumn, the systemic fungicide activity of Heritage Maxx gives maximum protection to the growing plant - along with activity on soil-borne Fairy Ring and Take-all diseases.

However, trials have shown that it also promotes stronger, healthier turf with improved green colour, even in the absence of disease (above, treated left; untreated right). The TSL demonstration showed the improved vigour and density of turf that had received two applications of Heritage Maxx, even though it had been grown in a clean, disease free environment.

Trials have shown up to 20% increase in anti-oxidant levels in treated turf, which when assessed for playability was also judged to be 20% better. If there had been any disease present, or the turf placed under other stress factors, the benefits would have been even more visual, with untreated turf far more susceptible to attack.

Greenkeepers are unlikely to make an application of Heritage Maxx solely for its turf enhancement effects. But where they are targeting a disease, it makes sense to tailor the treatment timing to take advantage of the health benefits ahead of any period of stress that may make the turf more susceptible to attack and damage - such as summer aeration, heavy wear through a tournament or the autumn renovation programmes, he advised.

The demonstration also showed the impact of exposing turf to stress, and how the product combination of Heritage Maxx, Primo Maxx and Qualibra can help to minimise the onset of symptoms. By stopping watering the covered turf tubs they were artificially subjected to drought

stress. After four days the untreated turf was already losing colour and leaf vigour, with leaves becoming lax to a point that would make maintaining ball speed and consistency difficult.

After 10 days without water, the implications were clearly evident to see; untreated turf had seen total leaf collapse and loss of colour. Without any photosynthetic activity, the plant has no ability to withstand other stresses or damage imposed. The treated turf, however, had remained remarkably green and healthy. Inevitably some effects were starting to be seen under the incredibly harsh test, but it had really illustrated the potential to delay the onset of effects and to buy time for conditions to change, whilst maintaining surface conditions demanded by players.

Unlike the other treatments, the Qualibra itself had no direct effect on the plant physiology - which is the case for all wetting agents. However, by holding soil water in the root zone whilst maintaining a firm, dry playing surface, it can significantly help to alleviate the factors that cause stress, especially

drought stress. Furthermore, root mass is encouraged to grow larger and where dry patch has been prevented more of the root is in contact with soil moisture, thereby aiding greater uptake of water and available nutrients that further promotes turf health and its ability to withstand stress. It creates better growing conditions that allow plants to make better use of all other inputs and enhance their health to self-generate the essential anti-oxidants.

At Syngenta our research now includes whole teams of scientists and specific projects looking at health enhancing attributes of new products during the development phase. He believes future new options will bring far reaching benefits and opportunities for greenkeepers to make better use of fertiliser, water and other inputs in a sustainable turf management programme, along with the most important role to create consistently better playing conditions.

Dr Louis Simard is Head of Turfgrass Research at the Syngenta Turf R&D centre at Stein in Switzerland.

GI would like to clarify the article 'Hart attack' from July 2014 which suggested that there are no chemicals registered and approved for use as nematicides in the sports turf and amenity sector. Stephen Silvester from Ecospray has asked us to point out that this is not the case. EGC (Eagle Green Care) is the only approved and registered nematicide available in the UK and Ireland. EGC is approved for both endo parasitic nematodes (living inside the root) and ecto parasitic (living outside the root) and kills all nematodes on contact.

For more info please visit ecospray.com EGC is available through Rigby Taylor, Ecospray's UK distributor.

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PHYTOPHTHORA LATERALIS SPREADS ITS WINGS



Phytophthora lateralis is spreading its wings with the disease found on at least two new species of conifer. The majority of cases have been identified on Lawson's cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) with a few on Northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*).

Forestry Commission (FC) recently reported finding *P. lateralis* on a Sawara cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*) near Tarbert in Argyll, Scotland in 2013.

Foresters had so far shown little interest in the progress of this disease even though it terminally affects its conifer hosts. This is because it has essentially been affecting amenity and landscape conifer species.

However, FC has now reported finding *P. lateralis* on a western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), a key timber producing conifer

species in the forestry sector, also in Scotland in 2014 at Bridge of Allan, Stirling. The finding has sparked renewed interest in the disease and its potential capacity to literally wipe out susceptible conifer species just as *Phytophthora ramorum* is doing to Japanese larch.

P. lateralis is closely related to *P. ramorum* (sudden larch death) – both pathogens are in the same sub group (Clade 8) of the *Phytophthora* genus. *P. lateralis* is disseminated and spread by air-borne spores called sporangia, just like *P. ramorum*.

There is documented history of this mode of inoculum dissemination and disease spread in Brittany in the north western region of France.

Potential for the spread of *P. lateralis* into

commercial forestry, following the disease being identified on western red cedar, is almost certainly why the FC website is now displaying a disease distribution map of mainland Britain with 'red dots' indicating outbreaks of *P. lateralis* similar to the format in that used for chalara ash dieback.

P. lateralis disease is still concentrated on western side of Central Scotland (14 red dots and 21 separate Statutory Plant Health Notices [SPHNs] issued for the destruction of tree) with 2 in Devon and 1 each in Yorkshire, Leicestershire, South Wales, and East Sussex. *P. lateralis* has also been found in Northern Ireland but these findings are not accommodated on the map.

Dr Terry Mabbett

BUZZ AT LEIGHTON

Greenkeepers are putting the finishing touches to a £250,000 development plan at a golf course nestling in the folds of the Bedfordshire-Buckinghamshire border.

Work on two new greens, fairways and bunkers has been completed by contractors and the five-man greens team at Leighton Buzzard.

The next phase of the development programme for Head Greenkeeper Iain Jones and his team is to replace sand in the course's 52 bunkers with a new mixture developed by Grantham based specialists Fineturf – used extensively in bunkers at The Belfry – and now being trialled at the 570-member Leighton club.

Carved out of woodland and sandy grazing land, at 6,100 yards, the Leighton course may not be the longest in the county but demands the highest standards of accuracy and is aptly described as “a thinking man's golf course.”



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The 13th BIGGA Delegation, kindly sponsored by Bernhard Grinders, will be lucky for some BIGGA members as another great career and personal development opportunity is launched.

The worldwide golfing industry heads to San Antonio in Texas next February for the Golf Industry Show, which will be showcasing world-first products plus some superb educational seminars, presentations and workshops.

This established trip will also feature course visits, the chance to network with countless key figures within the industry, and can lead to unmissable opportunities.

For example, back in March Greenkeeper International featured a delegate diary written by Tom Brearley, Assistant Greenkeeper at Sunningdale, one of last year's Delegates.

As well as several educational seminars and course visits to the likes of TPC Sawgrass, Tom was offered the dream chance to join the greenkeeping team at Hazeltine National for the 2016 Ryder Cup.

He explained: "I met Chris Tritabaugh, Golf Course Superintendent at Hazeltine, and enjoyed a half hour chat with him.

"He showed a real interest in my background, aspirations and our work at Sunningdale, and this resulted in him offering me the chance to join his team for the Ryder Cup.

"This is an example of what

the trip can open up for you if you are willing to put yourself out there and will definitely result in one of the highlights of my career."

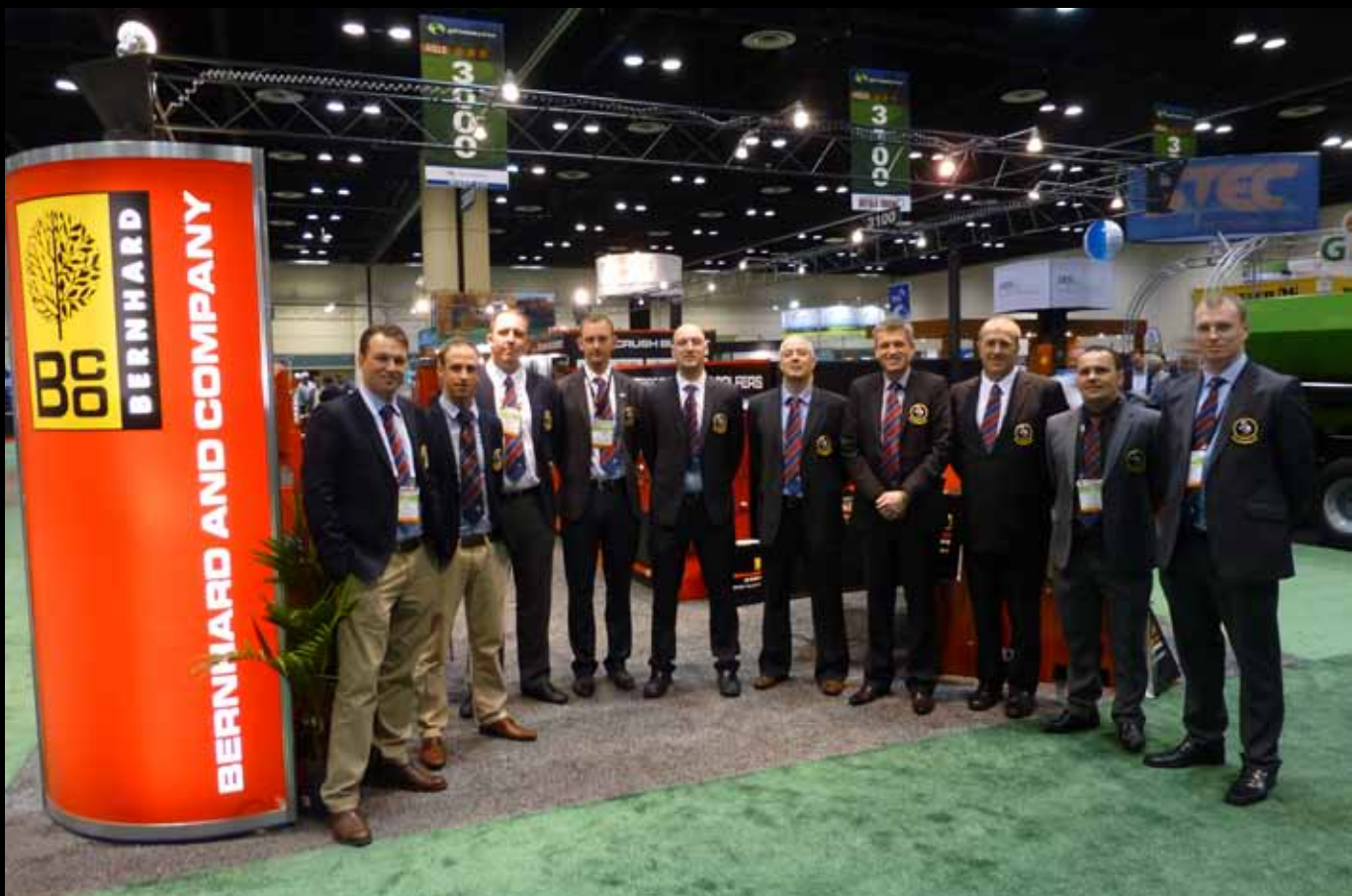
You will also get the opportunity to tour the GIS, and will help man the BIGGA Stand.

The Delegation also gives BIGGA members the opportunity to meet other greenkeeper members – and

many lifelong professional and personal friendships have been created as a result.

To apply to become part of the 2015 Delegation, simply visit www.bernhard.co.uk/bigga2015 and complete an application form asking you a series of questions about yourself, your career ambitions and more. The closing date is 20 September 2014







Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA



SEE US AT SALTEX

We will soon be heading to Windsor to take part in Saltex 2014 – come and see us on Stand G98! We will be able to discuss membership benefits, educational matters, BTME 2015 and anything you'd like. Hopefully we will see you there!



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BIGGA MEMBER LEGAL ASSISTANCE

When you have a legal problem it can often be a stressful time of your life.

It is often difficult to know who you can talk to, and the cost of getting the advice that you need can often be expensive. As a benefit of your BIGGA Member Legal Assistance insurance package arranged by Gallagher Heath, you and your immediate family have access to a comprehensive legal helpline that offers advice on a wide range of legal services.

The Legal Advice Line is provided by Irwin Mitchell, one of the top 10 UK law firms. It's operated by a team of dedicated advisers, all legally qualified to give you the legal advice that you require. The typical areas of law they can give advice on

are Family law, Employment law, Property law and Consumers. The adviser will assess your legal issue and provide you with immediate advice for your situation.

When you call you will not be waiting in a long holding area, you will gain immediate access to advice. This works in conjunction with your Legal Assistance insurance package, so if you have a legal problem which you may wish to make a claim on, the advice line will be able to initially assess the issue and advise whether making a claim might be suitable.

The Legal Advice Line is supported by a team who specialise in particular areas of law.

This means they can assist with even the most complex legal issues

and queries, something that not all legal advice services can provide.

There are no limits on the quantity or length of calls you can make and you can call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year so that you can get the advice you need when you need it.

This service is available to you and your immediate family as part of the Legal Assistance insurance package.

To use the Legal Advice Line and speak to one of the dedicated advisers please call 0800 177 7891 – remember to have your membership number to hand.

The BIGGA website features a series of useful links including www.acas.org.uk and www.hse.gov.uk

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0844 770 1036
www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst

www.advancedtt.com

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That's the TMSystem™. Whatever the maintenance objective there is a SMART cassette to meet the need.

For consistent green speed firstly use the SMARTUltraGroomer™. Now that the grass is upright SMARTCut™ will execute a clean cut. Lastly run over with the SMARTVibe™ to true-up the surface.

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THE MISSING PIECE THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

Learning & Development News has the latest updates on CPD and everything related to greenkeeper education

and training, supported by our BIGGA Partners, BIGGA Education Supporters and Individual Contributors –

funding your future. Contact the Learning & Development team at BIGGA House for more information.

DEGREE OF SUCCESS FOR GEOFF AND DARREN



Congratulations to two BIGGA members who have both recently achieved Bachelor of Science degrees from Myerscough College.

Geoff Fenn (inset above) Course Manager at Bedford & County Golf Club, was awarded a First in BSc Sports Turf Science, and Darren Anderson MG, Course Manager at Abergele Golf Club, achieved a

2:1 in his BSc Sports Turf Science and Management.

Both greenkeepers urged other turf managers to follow in their footsteps as the often intense studying has improved their skill sets.

Geoff said: "Professionally, it's the best thing I've ever done. It's made me a much more confident greenkeeper, I now feel I

can talk on a level with anyone in the industry.

"I've really benefitted from learning more about project management, plant pathology, genetically modified turfgrass...all manner of subjects. You just have to commit yourself to spending a couple of hours a night on it, which is tough but it can be done!"

Darren, who was helped on his way to

achieving his degree by an R&A Scholarship, said:

"It was a superb course, the highlight for me was learning more about the construction side of things.

"The club are delighted as well, they even congratulated me on TV screens around the club.

"This made me really proud and showed how supportive they are of me."



Individual Contributors: Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS, W J Rogers, Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann, Nick Gray, Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn, Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild, Michael Beaton, David Barker, Greg Evans

The funding and assistance provided by BIGGA Partners and BIGGA Education Supporters underpins the Associations considerable investment in CPD and all our educational activity. They are investing in the future of BIGGA members, we are hugely grateful and urge you to show them your support.

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BIGGA CONTINUE WITH EDUCATION SEMINARS AT IOG SALTEX 2014



The education sessions being presented by BIGGA at this year's SALTEX will complement the myriad of golf course maintenance products on view to create an event that will appeal to greenkeepers at courses of every size and type.

Being staged on Wednesday September 3 at Windsor Racecourse, the free-to-attend seminars will focus on integrated turf management and the benefits of social media, as well as present an interesting insight into the impact that the Wimbledon tennis Championships has on a neighbouring golf course.

The schedule starts with David Langheim MG, course manager at Wimbledon Park Golf Club.

His 'Wimbledon fortnight: before, during and after' session will highlight how the club is each year affected by the Wimbledon tournament.

Presenting first-hand experiences and photographic evidence of how events unfold, David will outline the impact on the course and how it is repaired.

Daniel Lightfoot MG, course manager at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club and Matthew Nutter, course manager at East Berkshire Golf Club, will then take to the stage to present an interesting look into the use of social media. Attendees at their '#socialsaltex' seminar will discover whether social media make the grass grow better.

The BIGGA programme is completed with the presentation 'Integrated Turf Management in Action' by Everris' Henry Bechelet, technical sales manager - turf and amenity. Henry proposes to show the real benefits of taking an integrated approach to turf management.

"If we combine treatments properly and build fully integrated maintenance programmes, then we can produce surfaces that perform better and with lower inputs," he said.

Henry will use the latest research and field trial data to show the benefits of thinking holistically and using objective measurement tools to guide decision-making.

1 CPD credit is available for each seminar. A CPD code will be available at the end of each seminar.

TURF MANAGERS' SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED



It may currently be the height of summer, but it's never too early to look forward to BTME – and we've already secured some first-class speakers for the Turf Managers' Conference on Monday 19 January 2015.

Four speakers are confirmed so far. First up will be Paul Hallett, Professor of Soil Physics at the University of Aberdeen.

His presentation will look at how root and microbes impact the soil and will also talk about the consequences for water movement.

He will be followed by Eddie Bullock, Golf Management Consultant at the Eddie Bullock Golf Consultancy.

He will ask "How Do You Make Your Customers Feel?"

After lunch Liggy Webb, Managing Director at The Learning Architect, will talk about 'Resilience in the Workplace'. Then, Brian Horgan will take to the stage. Brian is Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist at the University of Minnesota.

The Turf Managers' Conference, which will again be held at the Crown Hotel in Harrogate, is becoming increasingly popular and is the place to be for a superb day of education and networking. More speakers will be confirmed over the coming weeks so keep an eye out for updates!

MATT PLESTED AWARDED JACOBSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Matt Plested, Course Manager at Muswell Hill Golf Club, who has been awarded the latest BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship supported by Jacobsen, worth £1000.



GI

NEW PRODUCTS

IOG SALTEX 2014 SPECIAL EDITION

The sun always shines at SALTEX each September. Here is a look ahead to this year's outdoor turf exhibition at Royal Windsor (but bring your raincoats just in case...)



ALL THE BRANDS UNDER THE SUN AT THIS YEAR'S SALTEX

This year's SALTEX show is promising visitors 'all the brands under the sun' - and if early news from the exhibiting machinery dealers is a guide, representatives from each major turf care brand will be on show as part of the A to Z equipment showcase for groundscre and open space professionals.

Farol represents manufacturers such as Bomford, John Deere, Major and Stihl, while John Deere machinery is just one aspect of Henton & Chattel's comprehensive equipment portfolio.

A host of brands are available

from Lister Wilder - including Campey/Dakota/Imants/Omarv/Raycam/Vredo, Fendt, Hayter, Honda, Massey-Ferguson, SnowEx, Timberwolf, Trimax, Turfmech, Viking and Wessex.

On the George Browns stand, visitors will be able to access Baroness, Kubota, Toro and Lastec, while Simon Richard will no doubt be showing representative models from the Muthing, Reform and Shibaura labels, and RT Machinery will be promoting a portfolio which includes Allett, Eliot, Etesia, Kioti, Scag and Walker.

Visit the SALTEX website (www.iogsaltex.com) for the complete line-up of equipment being shown.

SALTEX

SPORTS AMENITIES LANDSCAPING TRADE EXHIBITION

2 - 4 September 2014
Royal Windsor Racecourse



CHARTERHOUSE TO DEBUT GRADEN

Charterhouse Turf Machinery will have a very colourful stand at Saltex this year. Red with the great range of products from the Redexim stable and Green to display the newly represented Graden product line up. Visitors to stand M80 will see how the Graden machines complement the Redexim equipment for the care and maintenance of both natural and synthetic turf surfaces.

For natural surfaces the focus for the Graden machinery will be the Contour Sand Injection (CSI) and for Redexim the new Double Disc Overseeder range will be at the forefront.

The CSI is a scarifier/aerator with the ability to scarify to any depth between 1mm-40mm, whilst simultaneously backfilling the grooves with either sand or a combination of sand and seed.

Its ability to do both jobs in one pass significantly reduces the time investment required to do the job and reduces play downtime without causing any detrimental effect to the firmness of the ground. Independent STRI trials rate the Graden CSI as the most effective machine for the removal of thatch.

POLYPRO FERTILISER ON SHOW FROM RIGBY TAYLOR

The Rigby Taylor stand (H95) will be highlighting some exciting product introductions, including new developments in pitch line marking and fertilizer application, together with programmes for complete weed control, autumn disease control packages and new wildflower mixtures.

In addition, the company's recently launched range of PolyPro and ConVert, Polymer coated fertilizers will be featured, together with the industry leading super-micro granular Microlite range, the 'R' range of grass seeds and the new Propel-R wetting agent.

Also, the stand will feature a number of the company's key landscape products and Rigby Taylor staff will be available to inform and advise upon all its

products for sports turf, amenity grass and landscaping projects.

Visitors will also be able to take away a free gift as a memento of their visit.



THE GRASS GROUP SHOW OFF TRILO'S NEW 'S' RANGE

Continuing the tradition of exhibiting new products at Saltex The Grass Group will once again have gleaming new machines to look over, two in fact from Trilo and RotaDairon, as well as some of the most popular machinery from the ATT Range.

First up is Trilo's new S range of vacuum sweepers, designed to reflect today's 'lean' manufacturing methods of lower cost production. Following on from the S3 and S4 models already launched come four new models - S8, S12, S16 and S20. This means the range now extends from the 4M3 capacity of the S4, through 8M3 and up to 20M3. The modular build of the S line mean options, including axle setup, implements and hitch

options, hose configurations, body types, attachments and fittings, can easily be incorporated to satisfy the unique needs of the end user.

Secondly The Grass Group will be exhibiting a light fairway mower fitted with ATT's TMSysTM cassettes. Unique in the market, and in keeping with the rest of the ATT family of machines, it has the ability to use the same range of SMART cassettes as the INFiNiSystemTM providing the flexibility to Aerate, Brush, De-Thatch, Groom, Level, Mow, Scarify and Top Dress all within one system of five cassettes fitted to a larger fairway power unit.

Designed with all the features of the INFiNiSystemTM, the light fairway setup offers



even greater productivity. The labour saving and reduced lifetime costs are a great benefit provided by the versatility of the cassette system, without compromising the proven quality of cut when using the SMARTCut mowing cassette.

Finally, and extending the already comprehensive range of seeding machinery from RotaDairon, will be the new compact pedestrian

propelled seeder - the SEED-CAR. Of particular interest to Landscapers and Turf Professionals needing a machine to help in restricted areas, this new machine will also find a home in the hire market.

The SEED-CAR is perfect for small spaces with narrow or difficult accesses and it will allow seeding into all the "corners" of a ground.

GI NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

SMART MOVE FOR JOHN DEERE

Rolling out a new range of turf machinery across Europe is a daunting task. So, why not unite everybody under one roof to view, test and train on the kit? That was John Deere's strategy for unveiling its new generation of fairway, tees/surrounds and rough mowers and pedestrian aerators.

The venue? Morley Hayes, Derbyshire: The atmospheric pay and play proprietary club hosted John Deere dealers, managers and international media in an innovative initiative that the company had first

trials there two years earlier.

The success of that test-run prompted the manufacturer to scale up the venture this time round.

"John Deere personnel have been coming here since the end of last year to engineer the site ready for launch," reported Head Greenkeeper David Bloore, "and the size of the operation has been far larger this time."

He's run John Deere fairway mowers for 15 years, so when European strategic account manager Howard Storey broached the idea, he was receptive.

Feedback from greenkeepers and other golf and industry professionals have helped fashion the new range.

OnCourse Technology intelligently integrates

electronic controls with mechanical features to deliver improved performance, better diagnostics, more uptime and better reliability, productivity and operator comfort.

Many of the new machines have been reconfigured to let operators get on and off them more easily from either the front or rear. Tighter striping and superior cut quality's on offer from the 8000AE hybrid, now equipped with 18in quick adjust cutting units and even fewer hydraulic leak points to worry about.

With fuel issues always key, the 30% saving billed for the new A Model E-cut hybrid electric fairway mowers will surely attract many greenkeepers.

The new 7200A PrecisionCut, 7400A Terrain Cut and 8800A TerrainCut tees and surrounds and rough mowers share many features with the latest fairway units. Larger eHydro transmission and redesigned wheel motors boost traction on the 7200A and 7400A,

especially on inclines - the new 55hp, four-cylinder engine on the 8800A generates more than 27% more power.

Updates to the 2653B PrecisionCut tees and surrounds mower includes lower seating position and more leg room, important during a long shift on-board and twin-action steering cylinder to promote straighter cut lines more easily.

Electric controllers on the 2500B PrecisionCut and 2500E hybrid electric greens mowers meanwhile offer greater diagnostic capabilities using the established control area network or CANbus system featured on their fairway counterparts.

Technology innovations can sometimes deter managers, particularly if they feel it may come unstuck in use but as territory manager Nick Ashman stressed:

"None of the technology we've used is new - it's all proven on other John Deere machines. However, it is new to the turf sector."

Previewing before official launch in spring 2015, the A40 and higher power V40 PrecisionCore pedestrian aerators claimed to save time and boost performance, while stealing a march on traditional competitors, thanks to new features such as tighter, faster turning circles.

Coupled with new Precision Tines for greens, tees, fairways and roughs, centralised controls that allow the operator to change hole spacing on the move, less handlebar vibration and contour-hugging articulation are predicted to prove attractive for greenkeepers, as is the three-wheel drive, designed to avoid scuffing and the optional verticut attachment.

Tom James



HOW SERIOUS ARE YOU ABOUT COURSE SAFETY?



There are two types of golf clubs. One that makes attempts to prevent slips and fall accidents, and one that does not believe it has a potential slip hazard problem.

The latter, unfortunately carries the attitude that if no one has slipped then there is no hazard to deal with, and the former who identifies potential slip hazards will use adequate methods to prevent an accident from happening.

Clubs often take corner-cutting methods – however these can actually contribute to slip accidents because they frequently break, rust, wear out, crack, blister, and look unsightly on sleepers, ramps, bunker steps, trolley ramps, footbridges and walkways.

We have a long-term, cheaper solution and over 170 UK-based clubs have purchased from us.

A solid preformed Fibreglass Polyester Resin Composite panel which we can cut down to special sized cleats with widths at approximately 200mm/150mm or 100mm can simply be screwed down

on to your Sleepers, Walkways, Footbridges etc.

Griplad's diamond hard Anti-Slip Cleats have a long lifespan. They are easy to fit, extremely cost effective and virtually no maintenance.

Why cut corners on cheap methods that do not work? The reality is that the cost of a compensation claim from a member or visitor on your course can dwarf the cost of the solution. We have that solution, and its long term, so why not pay a small price for peace of mind and contact us.

email: enquiries@griplad.co.uk
website: www.griplad.co.uk



RESISTANCE FOR GREENER GREENS



Germinial Seeds has launched its second UK-bred Browntop Bentgrass cultivar, AberRegal. The new cultivar offers greenkeepers great all round performance and added disease resistance and will be available to purchase from late July as AberMajesty – a blend of AberRegal and current favourite, AberRoyal.

AberRegal is Germinial Seeds' second home-bred Browntop Bentgrass and the latest addition to the company's Grade 'A' range of cultivars and seed mixtures. The new variety follows hot on the heels of AberRoyal – the first UK-bred Browntop Bentgrass – and is eagerly awaited by greenkeepers as it offers improved shoot density, fineness of leaf, unrivalled winter and summer greenness and superior overall disease resistance.

With the first crop of seed successfully harvested and due to be available before the end of

July, greenkeepers across the UK and Europe will soon be able to add diversity to the current list of bentgrasses used as part of their course's seeding portfolio. Existing AberRoyal user, Simon White, Course Manager at The Chase Golf Club in Staffordshire, is one such greenkeeper who is looking forward to introducing AberRegal to his course.

"We started using AberRoyal at The Chase five years ago," Simon explained. "It's been a consistent performer for us and one we know we can rely on."

"But, we are always on the lookout for new cultivars and tend to use a blend of varieties to avoid creating a mono-culture of grasses and to help achieve our goal of true, consistent, all year round performing greens to please both our members and to meet our own high standards."

AberRoyal, AberRegal and AberMajesty are available exclusively via Germinial Seeds.

ENVIROBUNKER REBRANDED



Following the recent decision by the partnership that owned EnviroSports Ltd to part company, the business has ceased trading. Rhydian Lewis, former full time director at EnviroSports, has now founded Durabunker Ltd.

Offering similar and additional services, Durabunker Ltd will become a licensee of granted patents in the UK, Europe and USA, for the building of golf course bunkers using the construction methodology formerly known as Envirobunker.

Rhydian explained: "Envirobunker as a brand has now been extinguished. Our new company has rebranded the product as 'Durabunker' and we will continue offering it to the market place with varied procurement models.

"These procurement models vary from full contractual services to supply only agreements, with options for managed contracts also being

available, allowing golf club staff to work alongside Durabunker staff in a collaborative manner."

Rhydian continued: "The majority of clubs in the UK that we worked with at EnviroSports Ltd, sought to use their own in house staff to renovate their bunkers using the product. This approach represents considerable cost savings and given that most clubs have experienced greenkeepers, the desire to utilize available staff resources is obviously appealing.

"As the product is protected by granted patents, Durabunker Ltd are able to continue offering licence agreements to facilitate this particular approach. However we also have an experienced team available to carry out bunker construction projects either as contractors or working in conjunction with local staff".

Durabunker as a product specifically addresses the issue of bunker face and edge

erosion, offering a durable, cost effective and environmentally friendly way of constructing golf course bunkers that will last for decades.

"Over the past number of years I have been fortunate to work with some of the foremost Golf Course Architects in the world, none more so than Nicklaus Design, who requested detailed information on the recycled material used to construct our bunkers.

"We presented them with a portfolio of independent research that had been carried out estimating that, when buried, the material would not begin to degrade for 200 years!! Bunkers built using the Durabunker method will be around for a long time, so it is important to be mindful of positioning and general shaping work required when undertaking a project with Durabunker.

"Maintenance free bunkers that have visual appeal, as well as being built for life, must be every greenkeepers dream. Durabunker goes a long way to realising that dream."

Through working with such architects for the past number of years Rhydian himself has learnt a great deal about how the product is best utilised in different landscapes. Being a Chair of Greens at his local club for many years has also given him a perspective of what is important to greenkeepers

in terms of maintenance practices.

"It's sometimes a delicate balance, but we will be bringing this knowledge of bunker design and shaping, coupled with an awareness of maintenance issues greenkeepers face, to all our projects, adding value to our client experience at every opportunity".

Durabunker Ltd used this knowledge recently during their first project at The City of Wakefield GC, UK where six bunkers were re-constructed in the space of a week by the Durabunker team.

David Bagg, Head Professional at the club, commented: "The reshaping work led by Rhydian and subsequent construction carried out by the Durabunker team, has absolutely transformed the appearance of our bunkers.

"The results exceeded our expectations, the bunkers have made an immediate impact, and the membership have never been so vocal in praise of a project."

Rhydian concluded: "During my time with EnviroSports Ltd I quickly learnt that each client is different and unique.

At Durabunker we aim to engage clients in dialogue at every opportunity. Collaboration is the key".

For more information contact info@durabunker.com



USE AUGUST GROWTH TO BUILD WINTER RESERVES

High temperatures and dry weather conditions can result in turf stress that typically causes over 30% reduction in root mass of turf grass plants during the summer.

Affected turf plants will need nurturing through a recovery period of good late summer and autumn growing conditions to build carbohydrate reserves, advises Rod Burke of Syngenta, or they will be at greater risk of more severe disease attack and frost damage this winter.

Over recent years, the key weather trend has been the shift to hotter and dryer conditions in August. The reference average temperature for the UK has risen by over 0.5°C for the period 1981-2010, compared to 1961-1990.

The last time temperatures were significantly below the long-term average was 1993 and, although there had been several cooler Augusts in recent seasons, it has still been above average for more than a decade.

An effective autumn Primo Maxx and nutrition programme could help to stimulate development of essential plant carbohydrate reserves and build up levels of stress-relieving anti-oxidants during August and September, said Rod.

"Trials have shown this stimulant effect to enhance turf health can enable plants to better survive harsh winter conditions and disease attacks," he reported.

"This has been attributed to

the build-up of carbohydrate in the root mass with Primo Maxx use.

"Furthermore, a Qualibra wetting agent programme that holds water deeply and evenly in the root zone provides favourable conditions for development of stronger rooting and improved uptake of water and nutrients."

Rod reiterated the importance of nutrient availability, with trials further highlighting the need for appropriate nutrition to feed the autumn recovery, but avoiding excess that could lead to more disease susceptible soft growth.

The consequence of the hot summer weather has seen Anthracnose, favoured by warmer conditions, reported as an increasing issue. Integrated Turf Management (ITM) practices to alleviate stress - including ensuring adequate nutrition and irrigation scheduling - will help reduce the risk.

But when disease pressure is high, Rod advised a proactive preventative fungicide application with anti-oxidant activity, such as Heritage Maxx, combined with GreenMaster liquid fertiliser, could help to minimise any impact.

He advocated that the GreenCast weather and disease forecasting - www.greencast.co.uk - provides a valuable early warning of potential risk, which can be used to optimise fungicide timing and turf management actions to create a clean surface going into the winter.



Strong August turf growth can restrict establishment of new seedlings over sown during golf green renovations.

Primo Maxx application five days before over sowing has been shown to suppress

existing turf and allow new seedlings to establish.

Furthermore, regulating growth as part of an ITM approach can relieve stress on plants and reduce their susceptibility to disease attack.

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- 19HP Kohler Petrol Engine
- 10" or 7" Working Depth
- 55Ltr 2 Stage Compressor

"Provides improved growth in the root zone and better drainage with no surface disruption, so play can be resumed immediately after use."

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Moving on

The prestigious Logan Trophy was Ben Cumberland's last event as Head Greenkeeper at Worksop GC before moving to pastures new. Steve Castle discovered how Ben's passion for heathland courses has led him to seek a new challenge



Pictured in June 2014, the greenkeeping team at Worksop – Simon Harrison, Simon Brown, Craig Denton, Anthony Whittingham, Ben Cumberland, Neil Bishop.



Name: Ben Cumberland (second from right)
Role: Head Greenkeeper
Born: 21 December 1984
Handicap: 3
Favourite Sports
Team: Manchester Utd

Ben Cumberland was undoubtedly an early starter. Inspired by his greenkeeper dad, and a golf nut as a youngster, he began learning about greenkeeping from the age of 12 onwards at Sherwood Forest Golf Club – a famous heathland course. So impressed was Ben with the venue that he’s subsequently used it as the template for his greenkeeping philosophy.

“At that age I was just keen to spend time on a golf course, it had that ‘wow factor’ you get when you’re a kid, so I used to rake bunkers and do divoting when I was in my early teens, the Head Greenkeeper Kim Kirkham trusted me to do this work on the course. I had got the bug and that was it. I used to love working on these beautiful striped and chequered fairways, immaculate greens – it was a dream job, much better than a paper round!”

Ben then took me round Work-sop’s 18 holes. He described it as having inland links characteristics as it’s surrounded by gorseland, but it also has significant woodland coverage framing many of the holes. To a visitor such as myself the proliferation of trees seems picturesque, however Ben has removed many trees to help with light across the course and drainage. He would have liked to have taken out more but was met with some resistance from within the club.

The English Mid Amateur Championship, also known as The Logan Trophy, travels around various venues much like The Open – and this summer it arrived at Work-sop, fittingly in the club’s centenary year.

It’s fair to say that I visited Ben, and the club, during a transitional period as he’s moving on to a Course Manager position at Coxmoor Golf Club. I was intrigued to find out more about this hugely engaging character’s background in the industry.

His early beginnings at Sherwood led to a part-time greenkeeping role at the course, and he studied Level 2 in Sportsturf at West Notts College before completing his Level 3 at Myerscough.

His first full-time job was at Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, then he had four years at Bulwell Forest before being made redundant due to cutbacks – the first real setback in his career and a real shock.

He recalled: “I never expected to be let go, particularly when there were only three greenkeeping staff including me, and I always thought the leisure industry was a pretty secure place to work. But the recess-



sion hit everybody. So I got a job at Mickleover Golf Club near Derby.”

A stint at Wollaton Park followed as first assistant mechanic, increasing his skill set, before joining Worksop in February 2012.

“Sherwood was the perfect grounding for me and everything comes back to there.

“Wherever I’ve gone, the way I present a golf course resembles Sherwood. It represents the benchmark. If you’re just a couple of steps behind Sherwood you’ve got a very good course. The only way we could match it here is with more money and more staff.

“In my opinion, when I joined Worksop the presentation of the course was lacking. There was no definition, everything was thin and sparse.”

One of the first things Ben did was incorporate wetting agents to

wider areas of the course – where budgets allowed – and this led to shorter fairways and an increased length of rough, all to achieve the previously elusive definition.

He added: “We’ve got quite a bit of ryegrass around the greens, so to work around that we’ve taken the fairway mower around the greens to create another two and a half metres, then gone on to semi-rough and three inch rough, purely to give strategic levels of cut. This means that if you miss the green by six feet you’re not penalised by ending up in two inches of rough.”

Ben estimated the greens are 70-80% meadowgrass, overseeded with bent when budgets allow.

He’s frank about the limited finances he’s had to work with during his time at Worksop, something which many greenkeepers will be familiar with.

ABOVE AND RIGHT: Worksop Golf Club

“Our budget is £72k and that’s everything – course maintenance, machinery maintenance, course construction and development, bills...of course it’s tough. We had some money earmarked for a new mower, but that went on a new clubhouse roof which is what the members wanted. That’s the reality. We’ve got a couple of machines that are past their best so you do worry what would happen if one of them breaks down.”

Ben’s farewell to Worksop – The Logan Trophy – was a real success, with plenty of positive comments from golfers and a home winner in Worksop member Martin Foulkes.

“It went very well, the whole greenkeeping team here had lots of praise from golfers and the EGU were very complimentary. It’s great that a Worksop member won it!

“I didn’t do anything really



special for the Trophy. The course should be in such a good condition all year round for the members that you shouldn't have to make any changes for a big event. We don't double cut for a competition, we double cut every day. We don't iron for a competition, we do it every couple of days to keep the speed there – that's obviously when the weather allows.

"We do time the application of fertilisers little and often so we don't get a growth flush, we use lots of Primo Maxx on the greens and the tees. Other than that and a bit of strimming, flymoing and bunker edging it's the same policies 365 days a year."

The team's aeration programme varies. This year they vertidraind with 18mm tines down to 10 or 12 inches, then hired the Greentek Dyna-Core – a new coring system

which fits on the greens mower – which closed up the tines. This was followed up with around 30 tonnes of topdressing – and as Ben said, "The greens are smooth and we've not looked back since."

He's now settling in at Coxmoor Golf Club after making the move some 20 miles south from Worksop. It's a venue particularly close to his heart as he's played golf there for many years, and it represented a long-term challenge which he felt he couldn't turn down.

He explained: "The majority of the membership want Coxmoor restored to its pure heathland roots.

At the moment it's probably 50% heathland, 50% parkland. The grasses have changed, they've got Yorkshire Fog in there, and in my opinion it needs a lot of aeration and scarifying. It's a long-term project. It's known as a terrific test

of golf but I want to improve it. My ambition is to restore it to one of the Top 100 Courses in the UK.

"My attitude is to have confidence in yourself and trust your instincts, and then the sky's the limit. That's the attitude I want young, aspiring greenkeepers to have. We took young Craig Denton on here as a part-time bunker raker, he's very keen to learn. He's done cutting on the greens, tees and surrounds and wants to do more. The more he's on the machinery the better he gets and over time he'll be setting the machinery up, it's great to see that enthusiasm and energy coming into the industry."

It's easy to forget that Ben is still in his twenties as he talks about young greenkeepers! I departed wishing him all the best for his new challenge, and feeling Worksop's loss will be Coxmoor's gain.

A holistic approach to irrigation (part two)



Following on from his article in GI June, Adrian Mortram from Robin Hume Associates returns with a look at how modern design and technology can guide your attitude towards irrigation

In my last article I reviewed some of the historical, but still highly relevant, methods of assessing when it may be necessary to apply water to our turf. Now I hope to expand on those views and discuss areas where modern design and technology can assist in this quest.

In short, fresh water is probably the most precious resource we have on the planet. Without it all life would cease to exist so it is our duty, not only financially (as water will become increasingly

more expensive), but morally, not to waste water or use it profligately.

The importance of irrigation design should never be overlooked. When considering a new irrigation system or upgrading an existing system it is up to you to decide upon the areas to be irrigated whether it may be greens, tees, approaches and aprons or a wall-to-wall system. Area specific irrigation design is both paramount and feasible and irrigation can be targeted to only those areas requiring it using individual head control and fully adjustable part

circle sprinklers with the correct choice of nozzles. The superb quality and excellence of the surfaces at the recent Open Championship at Royal Liverpool were a credit to Craig Gilholm and his team and provide a prime example of where area specific irrigation design has been successfully used.

To obtain uniform distribution of water at the desired application rate there is a need to space sprinklers accurately on a triangular, square, rectangular or inline configuration. This is extremely important and is often one of the most overlooked



ABOVE: Sprinkler nozzles

elements. When sprinkler positions are set out on the ground it is likely their location will remain for the lifespan of the irrigation system therefore undertaking this process diligently is important. Many times during irrigation audits some of the issues with coverage and uniformity can be attributed to poorly positioned and spaced sprinklers. Admittedly in some cases this may be due to green migration, where in the past a greenkeeper has mown out, for example, an apron, which in the course of time has been incorporated as part of the putting surface.

about the author



About the author

Adrian Mortram is Managing Director of Robin Hume Associates (RHA) who are golf course and sportsturf irrigation consultants based in the UK. Adrian has undertaken numerous education sessions for BIGGA both at regional and national level and his company RHA offer a range of services from irrigation audits through to detailed irrigation design, plans and specifications. For more information please visit: www.irrigationconsultants.co.uk, or email adrian.mortram@irrigationconsultants.co.uk

Control system technology is probably one of the fastest advancing aspects of irrigation technology. With the constant advances in control systems and the ability to have more sprinkler stations operating from the same cable pathway, it is possible to refine an irrigation design to use more individual head control allowing for varying nozzles and arcs to specifically target water to where it is needed.

In my last article, I mentioned the factors affecting evapotranspiration as solar radiation, temperature, humidity and wind. In the US, fans may be used to help combat humidity often because of potential disease issues. Solar radiation and temperature are very difficult if not impossible to control and in the UK

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Checking soil moisture for irrigation scheduling



coverage for a given sprinkler spacing thereby saving water. Sprinklers are now far easier to service, maintain and adjust with manufacturers allowing for access to all components from the top and ease of arc adjustment of the sprinkler without the need to remove the sprinkler from its body. This of course will save time in setting up and adjusting the irrigation system to suit the specifics of the golf course and also save on electricity and water. Maintenance of the irrigation system is of paramount importance.

Managing soil moisture is an important aspect of golf course management as the desire to produce faster firmer surfaces is becoming more prevalent. Traditional methods, along with calculations from a soil moisture balance sheet, still have their value however technology is now available in our quest. Soil moisture monitors can play an important role in managing the moisture balance in the rootzone. The two methods of monitoring soil moisture most commonly used are mobile and in-situ soil moisture probes. It could be argued the mobile probes are more flexible as they can reflect moisture levels expressed as a percentage of the rootzone's volumetric water content (vmc) over different areas requiring only a single moisture meter. In-situ probes can provide the same data as mobile probes, however, as specific reference data from the same area of the profile providing an historical graphical representation of changes in rootzone moisture levels over time. This information can be relayed directly back to the irrigation controller to accurately aid with irrigation scheduling and programming.

Average moisture targets are now available for targeting grass species, however, the readings taken from different equipment types will differ so it is imperative that in-house experimentation is undertaken to decide what works for your course.

It may be all well and good to know when to irrigate and even how much water to apply in millimetres, but how can this be converted into sprinkler run time? Yes, the computer will do it but it is good to know what criteria the computer uses.

This calculation is a factor of the output from the sprinkler nozzle (measured in litres per minute for example) multiplied by 60 (to convert into litres per hour) divided by (for a square spacing) the distance between each sprinkler head (in metres) squared. This calculation will result in the sprinkler precipita-

Precipitation Rate Calculation

Information Required –

Spacing between Sprinklers
20m x 20m
Sprinkler Configuration:
SQUARE
Sprinkler Arc Setting: eg: assume
360 degrees [full circle]
Sprinkler Flow: 100 litres per min

Calculations

Flow (l/min) x 60
Spacing (m) x Spacing (m)
100 (l/min) x 60
20 (m) x 20 (m)
= 15 mm/hour
Sprinkler Run Time Calculation;

Information Required –

Sprinkler Precipitation Rate (as
above): 15mm/hr
Required Application Rate
4mm (per day)

Calculation

Required Application Rate
(mm) x 60
Precipitation Rate (mm/hr) [from
above]

4 (mm) x 60
15 (mm/hr)
= 16 minutes per day

wind is often a problem. There are ways of improving sprinkler coverage, however, it should be noted it will never be possible to completely combat the effect of wind, as the direction and intensity is constantly changing. This is one of the reasons why irrigation occurs during the night as generally wind will often be lower in intensity.

Options to improve coverage in windy scenarios are; to deregulate sprinkler spacing in relation to the coverage of the chosen nozzle, using nozzles with a higher flow and pressure and therefore larger mass (droplet size) to provide more inertia into the wind; or by using low angle nozzles or sprinklers with trajectory adjustment. The normal angle of sprinkler trajectory is around 25 degrees whilst with low angle nozzles or trajectory adjustment with a trajectory of 15 degrees

or lower they will often throw under the wind.

Also sprinklers with the main, intermediate and inner nozzles forward facing benefit from the main nozzle protecting the intermediate and inner nozzles from the effects of the wind. All these options may have a negative influence on uniformity, however, in most circumstances they will offset the negative effects of the wind. Of course the range of sprinkler nozzles is greater than ever allowing for reductions in over throw and waste of water.

Little time is given to the advancements in technology in the design of sprinkler nozzles. Nozzles may be less than 10mm in diameter, however a significant amount of research and development now goes into designing nozzles which are less prone to wear, blocking, wind and provide the most uniform

tion rate (i.e. the rate at which water is applied to the surface) in millimetres per hour. A second calculation will produce the sprinkler run time (in minutes) and involves the required application rate per day (in millimetres) multiplied by 60 (to convert to millimetres per hour), divided by the precipitation rate (in millimetres per hour).

For a square spacing to the worked example is (orange box bottom left)

Irrigation is a fascinating aspect of turf management. The Irrigation Engineer has become a key role of many greenkeeping teams, perhaps someone with an interest in computer technology, mechanics and water.

Unfortunately a turf manager's focus is often not on irrigation until it is required at the beginning of the season. In-house audits should be carried out over the winter focusing on all aspects of the system, from water sourcing and pumping equipment through to individual sprinkler heads. Understanding the fundamentals of irrigation design is a must if only to aid with the modification of the irrigation layout when adding a new tee, or remodelling a green to ensure it is in harmony with the remainder of the irrigation system design. Remem-



ABOVE: Sprinkler maintenance and servicing

ber that Irrigation workshops are on offer at BTME annually. Irrigation programming is not rocket science but it does demand a desired level of mathematics.

The idea of these articles was to present an all-round or holistic view of the topic. Old fashioned values still have their place, daily obser-

vation and a sense of belonging to the environment are essential, and can never be replaced solely by technology.

At the end of the day it is the management of the whole rootzone which is of paramount importance and water is a principle part of the equation.





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The Open 2014 **The future's bright...**



BIGGA's Open Support Team joined the home greenkeeping team at Royal Liverpool Golf Club during a hectic, hard-working and ultimately proud and successful week for the turf management industry at the 143rd Open Championship

A mixture of experienced and youthful BIGGA members headed to the Wirral from a huge range of clubs far and wide – and dealt expertly with a number of challenges including an unprecedented two-tee start on Saturday.

The intense week began with a briefing from the club's Links Manager Craig Gilholm, who generously gave up his time on the Wednesday evening to explain his team's plans and outline the type of support he was anticipating alongside the R&A's Director of Rules Grant Moir. A mere 12 hours before David Howell hit the first shot in anger, Craig was happy to answer questions in the evening sunshine as he gave details of the agronomic challenges involved in preparing a course for The Open.

Then it was a case of setting early alarms with the first bus heading towards the course at 5am to ensure the first group of greenkeepers arrived in plenty of time before the tournament's 6.25am start.

Their main duty was to rake the course's 82 bunkers as play progressed – and they were kept busy as 335 required raking during the first round. By the time Rory McIlroy was crowned champion, they had raked a grand total of 945. The team also assisted with evening divot duty – so the combination of early starts and nearly six hours of raking in sweltering heat shows how dedicated and committed they have to be.

As Saturday approached, the decision to operate a two-tee start due to the forecast of thunderstorms meant that for the first time, bunker rakers joined play on both the first and 10th tees.

The main duty of the team is to rake bunkers during each round played – and our statistics are a constant source of interest and conjecture throughout the BIGGA marquee and further afield as the world's media often take an interest in how many players have been caught out in the traps.

The last time The Open came to Royal Liverpool in 2006 – the scene of Tiger's famous triumph – the team raked a total of 1,092 bunkers. Here are this year's stats:

82 bunkers in total on the course

- Thursday – 335
- Friday – 344
- Saturday – 144
- Sunday – 122
- TOTAL - 945**



Mike Ellis raking on day one



A member of the home greenkeeping team at work on Wednesday evening



Tom Freeman on day one



The team tickled pink on Saturday



Preparing for the Open

GI caught up with Craig Gilholm, Royal Liverpool Links Manager on the eve of the tournament

Craig said: “Everything’s in place, we’ve been working with STRI and the R&A. The weather has been so warm and wet the grass has grown for fun over the last few weeks and we’ve cut the golf course at 4am since Sunday. We’ve been double cutting greens for a week before the tournament.

“The heavy rain on Saturday hit us hard. Green speeds were on target for what we wanted for the Championship, but my worry was the growth would affect this. I don’t want to see a ball bobble on the greens because the growth is so strong. But it wouldn’t be natural if I wasn’t worried about something!”

Royal Liverpool’s team was supplemented by staff from local clubs, other Open venues and R&A greenkeeping scholars.

They included: Gregor Mackintosh (Turnberry), Sean McDonoghue (Ballybunion - R&A Scholar), Chris Trimble (Mere - R&A Scholar), Tore Hansen (Norway - R&A Scholar), Ross Mitchell (Carnoustie), Cliff Anderson (Royal St George’s), Martin Turner (St Andrews), Murray White (Muirfield), Andrew Moore (Royal Lytham & St Annes), Sean McDonagh (Ireland).

Craig added: “These guys have been magic, if you didn’t know you’d think they were part of the full-time team here because they’ve

fitted in so well and they’ve enabled us to get everything done that we’ve had to do.”

Days later, after a magnificent four days of golf, the condition of the course was being widely praised by all sides. Congratulations to Craig, the entire team at Royal Liverpool and all the volunteers.

Some course set up information was provided to the media during the week. For Round Three, the greens were double cut on the Friday evening and double cut the next morning at 3.5mm. They were also rolled in the morning and were running at 10ft 8in. They continued to firm up, but were predicted to soften as a result of the forecasted heavy rain – which did indeed arrive as a torrential downpour late on Saturday afternoon.

More information on the course setup for Round 3:

Fairways – Cut at 11m. First cut (semi) rough (approx. width 2.5 metres) cut at 38 mm daily. Second cut of rough (approx. width 4.5 metres) cut in early June and allowed to go to seed.

Approaches – Double cut at 7mm, rolled, and have the same average firmness as the greens.

And for the final day, greens were double cut the previous night at 3.5mm and triple cut in the morning to reduce the impact of



ABOVE: Craig with the BIGGA Support Team on Wednesday evening.

BELOW: The Royal Liverpool greenkeeping team with Gillian Gilholm

Saturday’s heavy rain on the pace. Greens were rolled in the morning. Greens were running at 11ft but moisture in the greens meant predicted growth during the day, so a slight reduction in pace during the afternoon was expected.

Approaches – Double cut at 7mm, rolled, with the same average firmness as the greens.



TEAM “QUOTES”

“I have been applying for ten years and after this week I will happily wait another ten years! You must apply, try and get picked and enjoy it for yourself.

“The best moments of my life are my wedding day, the birth of my son and now walking up the 18th on the final day of The Open. Nothing can prepare you for the noise. As I walked over the bridge at the end I was really quite choked because it hit me it was all over.”

Tony Bartram, Greenkeeper, Richmond Golf Club

“What a great few days at the golf world’s greatest major championship. Well done by all the BIGGA support team. Having the second last match on Sunday will be something I’ll never forget, walking up the 18th made me appreciate how lucky we are to have the opportunity.”

Richard Jenkinson, Deputy Course Manager, G West (shown below with Rickie Fowler)

“It was like Christmas and your best birthday rolled into one. It’s long hours but it’s worth it with some great company. A big thank you to everyone at BIGGA and all the new pals I’ve made.”

Harvey Brooke, Greenkeeper, Redditch Golf Club

“I raked for Tiger on the Friday and then raked for the last group on the Sunday, I couldn’t ask for more. Sunday was unbelievable, the atmosphere was buzzing on the back nine. I heard a groan when Rory played his iron shot on the 18th so I knew I had one last bunker to rake!

“The whole team got on well and it was great to meet some new guys, it was such a memorable experience.”

Paul Armour, Course Supervisor at the New & Jubilee Courses, St Andrews (below with scoreboard)



QUALIFYING VOLUNTEERS

Of course, the BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal Liverpool were just one part of the success of golf’s showpiece event. BIGGA members across the country took the opportunity to volunteer to join greenkeeping teams at the various Regional Qualifiers in the weeks leading up to the finale at Royal Liverpool.

Gareth Roberts (top right), Course Manager at Hanley Common Golf Club, welcomed seven volunteers to the course for their Regional Qualifier in late June – with the group arriving at 4am.

Gareth said: “We can’t do everything ourselves and it was a pleasure to see these guys. I paired each of them up with a member of the team for the day – cutting, bunker work and so on, so we could cover all aspects of preparation.

“They enjoy the buzz of working towards an event like this, and the team here got a lot from working with greenkeepers from different courses. The weather was beautiful, everything went smoothly and I’d like to thank them for their efforts, not to mention turning up at 4am!”

The team were Gavin Kyle from Knole Park Golf Club, James Norris and Richard Covey from Blackmoor Golf Club, Greg Richardson from West Surrey Golf Club, Graeme Roberts from Tandridge Golf Club, Andy Haskell (‘Arnie’) from Farnham Golf Club and David Gray, affiliate BIGGA member and former greenkeeper from TH White.

Gwynn Davies (above right), Course Manager at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa, welcomed two volunteers to the course for their Qualifying Event – and one of the Mere’s greenkeepers Chris Trimble helped joined the Hoylake team during the Championship as one of the R&A Scholars.

Gwynn was assisted by Alan Curtis from Whitley Bay Golf Club, and Greg Wellings from St Annes Old Links Golf Club.

Gwynn said: “They were a great help, it meant we had two extra bodies so we could run two extra machines. Greg was part of the fairway crew and Alan worked hand cutting greens and raking bunkers.

“This allowed us to get all the work done to the highest standard including double cutting fairways and approaches, and they got really worthwhile experience from it too.”





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COVERING THE WORLDS GREATEST STAGES



Electric benefits for Toro at The Open

Royal Liverpool has seen a number of changes since it last hosted The Open Championship back in 2006. At 7,312 yards, it is now 54 yards longer and a number of bunkers have been removed, leaving 82 in total across the course. The swales around five of the greens have been modified to make it harder to play wayward shots and some broken ground has been created in the rough.

Other developments, however, went unnoticed and that is just how Links Manager Craig Gilholm likes it. Tasked with readying

the Hoylake course for The Open means he and his team have been working flat out since the beginning of this year, working up to cutting greens and tees from 4am before tackling the fairways later as the days lengthened.

One snag for Royal Liverpool is its location in what has become a densely populated area. Mowing noise is not appreciated at any time of day, let alone at 4am. Last year, Craig came up with a solution. Instead of replacing his existing greens mowers with 'conventional' petrol and diesel powered alternatives, he decided to go full electric for the pedestrian greens mowers



and hybrid for the ride-on greens triples.

“We wanted to make a switch away from diesel and petrol for the broadest of environmental reasons,” he said. “Being able to recharge batteries using renewable energy from wind and solar power is the way forward. But cutting pollution, to include noise, is also a key priority and one that is key to the sustainability of golf”.

His selected kit includes six lithium battery powered Toro eFlex 21 pedestrian mowers with 11-blade cylinders and groomers capable of cutting up to greens, plus four diesel hybrid Toro TriFlex 3420-D ride-on greens mowers, the latter being split equally between 8- and 11-blade units. These mowers had already proven themselves over the course in 2013, but of late they have been made to work extra hard. No concession is made to how they operate either, Craig and his team expect them to perform exactly as they would demand a ‘conventional’ powered fleet of machines.

“The eFlex mowers will let you know when the battery is discharged, the on-board computer system ensuring full performance is delivered right to the moment when the mower needs to stop for a recharge,” he said. “At present we can mow five greens per charge with groomers and push brushes, which is just right for our needs. The eFlex models replaced conventional Flex 21 petrol models and I can see no difference in performance but appreciate the simplicity and low noise of the battery models.”

The diesel powered hybrid TriFlex 3420-D have proved a hit too, will electric power to the Dual Point Adjustment (DPA) cutting units doing away with hydraulics to the mowing circuit.

Although hydraulic failure is rare on modern equipment that is correctly maintained, working the tees and surrounds with a machine with minimal oil in the system is a comfort ahead of a prestigious championship. Further, the mowers can be operated at a lower engine speed, reducing noise and fuel consumption.

“Craig, mechanic Phil Turner and all the greenkeeping staff take their responsibility to the environment extremely seriously,” said Lely Regional Manager Nigel Lovatt. “They are also keen to embrace the latest technology so the club’s investment the eFlex pedestrian and diesel hybrid TriFlex triple ride-on greens mowers and all-electric Workman MDE utility vehicles last year are a perfect fit. I don’t mind



admitting you are always a little nervous when a customer invests so heavily in new technology, but I am pleased to say all the equipment has performed exactly as expected.”

To help ensure all 18 greens delivered consistent play throughout the tournament, the team used Toro GreensPro 1240 rollers ahead of play, a further two being provided by local Toro dealers Cheshire Turf Machinery to help ensure all greens can be rolled in a timely fashion. Making a course more challenging is one thing but ensuring it also delivers a fair game to all is equally important. Developed from the GreensPro 1200 introduced a couple of seasons ago, the latest 1240 model are easier to use and faster, a key plus at demanding times!



“We have worked with Royal Liverpool for over 10 years,” said Steve Halley of Toro dealers Cheshire Turf Machinery.

“We all pull together when it comes to helping to prepare the course for The Open as we know just how much pressure there is to prepare the course, not just for the players, but all the supporters, catering crews and other businesses that descend on the area for the championship.

“We also supplied extra Toro utility trucks and TransPro tailgate trailers to support the four Toro Workman MDE electric and TransPro units already employed by the club. Getting staff and equipment where it is needed is absolutely critical when everyone is working flat out.”



A man with a beard, wearing a black jacket and khaki trousers, stands on a golf green. In the background, there is a large clubhouse with a balcony and a yellow flag on a pole. The scene is set on a well-maintained golf course with trees and a clear sky.

The Bear Necessities

James Bledge, Assistant Links Superintendent at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, was introduced to Dan Lightfoot MG, Course Manager at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, at BTME and spent two full days shadowing him. Here he tells us what a valuable experience it turned out to be and encourages other greenkeepers to follow suit



It was that time of year again, BTME was fast approaching and additional thoughts and ideas about education for the coming year were playing on my mind. I wanted to do something a little different this year and after a discussion with my former boss at gWest, Lee Strutt MG, we came up with an idea to see if I could do a few days shadowing another Course Manager.

He introduced me to Dan Lightfoot, and Dan and I chatted about a possible two-day trip to Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, which is a high end parkland course in Berkshire. Like many of us at BTME I was blown away by Dan's seminar entitled 'Arsenal, Portsmouth or Manchester City'. This looked at the planning, development and execution of a sustainable course management model – and what happens if a multi-millionaire owner turns up. This immediately gave me an interest in Dan and the work he was undertaking.

After numerous emails and messages we were good to go and I was ready for what would be an unforgettable two days. My main objective was to get an insight into how Dan runs a large team, how he project manages...and to steal ideas and general tips that I can use at Royal Cinque Ports! Although the styles and native grasses of both courses differ, I felt we would both gain a lot from my visit.

I was instantly excited when I received a message from Dan saying "for the full Bearwood experience, meet me at the clubhouse at 5:30am". I was intrigued as to what the full experience was and what was to follow was something special. Looking out over the course from the Clubhouse balcony was a view I'd never tire of.

The mist hung over the stunning emerald green turf, framed by trees with deer migrating toward the lakes for the day, only to return at night. Instantly I could tell this was more than something special.

After an introduction to the fifteen strong greenkeeping team, we headed to the putting greens so Dan could set up the greens for a verticut. I might add at this point that Dan had texted me a few days earlier saying he was currently disappointed with the greens and not to expect too much.

Yet from this moment on I was greeted by some of the finest and most pristine surfaces, from tee to green I have ever seen - and I've seen a few! This was just a reflection of how high Dan's expectations and standards are.

Dan's passion for his course is amazing, he adores the place and knows not only every single square yard but every square inch. We talked non-stop about everything greenkeeping. I was particularly interested in rough management as this is an area at Royal Cinque Ports that needs refining. Dan's cutting and collecting procedures along with his 'Rescue' programme is very effective and something for us to aspire to.

See photograph inset right below: the treated area on the left and untreated on the right.

Dan hits this area twice a year at 11/ha and doesn't tend to overseed as there is a sufficient amount of fescue in the sward. Due to the wet winter, the team were unable to work on the rough as much as in previous years, however the work they had carried out was successful.

Larger, flatter areas were harvested by a local farmer and the rest of the team finished off more intricate areas.



treated area on the left and untreated on the right.





I was then introduced to Dan's 'sports bag of tricks', which I found hilarious. I know he has a reputation for keeping good data records and using them to benefit the course and this bag contained everything he needed to do so. We spent a lot of time recording speed, firmness, temperature, height, and grass species, all of which he simply uploads to an app on his iPad and it is then automatically arranged in a place where he can monitor at the touch of a button. Since then I've been using 'Google Forms' to compile all of our data, and the 'Evernote' app, for taking notes when out on the course.

The USGA greens recorded fantastic temperatures of around 18C. Because of this, growth rates were good and along with his precise fertiliser and Trinexapac-ethyl programme, any scars from 'drill and fill' work were closing up. Dan sprays Plant Growth Retardants at 250ml/ha along with Gary's Green Ultra and Seamac Proturf, the rates of which are chosen on the day depending on what he thinks the greens need. Sometimes Potassium Nitrate is added to the cocktail if he feels they need hardening without

loading on too much Nitrogen. PGRs were applied at 2.5l/ha on two inch roughs in order to thicken the sward and avoid any bare lies.

One of the most inspirational aspects of life at Bearwood Lakes is the team. All the team seem really motivated and happy at work, they all enjoy being there and working for Dan. They get on well and I felt a massive team spirit. This really hit home at lunchtime when I walked outside to see all the guys sitting together outside like cub scouts round a campfire!

Education is so important for all greenkeepers, and I took so much away from my two days. If there are any Course Managers out there that you look up to, or any courses you dream of working on, I suggest you give work shadowing a shot. Not only did I learn a massive amount and take a great deal of motivation from this, I also now have someone else on the other end of the phone and I've made a good friend.

I'd like to thank all the staff at Bearwood Lakes for making me feel so welcome and to Dan for giving me an insight to the most amazing golf course and management techniques going!



To keep track of the work at Bearwood Lakes visit the blog at blgagd.blogspot.co.uk
And to follow the work of the team at Royal Cinque Ports check out the team's blog, featuring YouTube videos, at royalcinqueports.wordpress.com





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With the Environmental Compliance Clock well and truly ticking Waste2Water look at ways of doing their bit to help

Environmental Legislation

With the recent extensive publicity I'm sure everyone is aware it is a criminal offence to allow certain substances including mineral oils, detergents and chemicals to enter surface drains, watercourses or Soakaways, causing groundwater pollution.

Installing a Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System provides a superb equipment wash facility and ensures compliance with the environmental legislation.

Equipment Wash-Off, Refueling, Degreasing, Chemical Mixing and any other potentially polluting activities can all be undertaken on the pad, removing any risk of groundwater pollution from routine activities.

Better still, the Recycling Wash System continuously re-uses the same water, reducing wash water usage by 90%+!

EU Water Framework Directive

With implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive required by 2015 if you have not already installed a dedicated wash area time is running out to ensure environmental compliance.

That's all very well, you may say, but what about financing the investment?

Waste2Water Recycling Wash System Approved on Water Technology List (WTL)

Apologies up-front, we've been aware of this scheme for sometime but didn't think it was of significance, so did nothing!

However, we recently reviewed the scheme benefits in detail and realised we were short-changing potential new customers as the cash flow benefit is very significant!

So, we immediately applied for our Recycling Wash Systems to be

included on the Water Technology List (WTL) and are delighted our systems are now approved!

WTL approval allows a 100% First Year Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) to be claimed, enabling the business to claim the full 100% investment cost against taxable profits in the year of purchase.

Capital Allowances enable businesses to write off their capital assets against taxable profits.

The standard Annual Capital Allowance is 25% of capital expenditure in each year, allowed on a reducing balance basis.

The 25% allowance doesn't sound too bad until you do the maths and find that it takes 8 years to reclaim 90% of your capital expenditure in any year!

The WTL Scheme 100% First Year Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) provides a very handy cash flow boost with full tax relief in year 1!

Waste2Water
Recycling Wash-Off System
for Vehicles & Equipment

If you would like further information on the Waste2Water System or a copy of the Pollution Prevention Guidelines please call. Tel 01782 373 878 / E-mail: info@waste2water.com



Waste2Water 2 Year Interest-Free Finance Package

With investment in a Recycling Wash System becoming an urgent priority to ensure environmental compliance we looked at what else we could do to assist and are delighted to offer our in-house 2 YEAR INTEREST-FREE FINANCE PACKAGE for all orders received up to the 30th September 2014. The scheme couldn't be simpler!

- In-house Scheme - so no finance to apply for or forms to fill in!
- Spreads the investment cost over up to 3 accounting years!
- Buy Now Pay Later - just 8 x quarterly payments!

Installing a Waste2Water Recycling Wash System

Installing a Waste2Water System could not be easier, often easily retro-fitting into an existing area.

The Recycling System ensures environmental compliance, reduces water usage by a mas-

sive 90% and tidies up one of the worst aspects of golf course maintenance.

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If you haven't already upgraded your equipment wash facilities call us now for a free no-obligation site visit. With our 2 Year Interest-Free Finance offer and the 100% Enhanced Capital Allowance reducing your tax bill you are already well on your way to funding the first year!

TIM EARLEY
Waste2Water

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Master Greenkeeper turned health and safety guru John Ross attempts to wade through the Health & Safety at Work Act, and offers clear guidance for turf management employers and employees alike

Risk prevention

The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 - the very phrase can strike fear into us all. If we remove the legal jargon from the act the we see that the only duties it makes of an employer are generalised, those being to ensure that the place of work is safe and without risk to the health safety and welfare of his employees, and that others are not exposed to risks to their health nor safety.

It places a duty on the employer to create a general statement on safety, stating the organisation and arrangements for doing the above, and to revise it as necessary. That

being the case why is health and safety such a minefield, and where can we look to for guidance on how to manage it?

The act has a few very clever tricks up its sleeve as it sets out more than the general duties above. It lays down the legal structure through which safety law is administered and executed.

It does this by creating the Health and Safety Executive and delegating the executive functions. Amongst those functions is the power to make regulations.

Most employers are aware of the importance MHSWR (3) Risk Assessment, but the regulation that follows it is a fundamental one,

it runs through the core of all the safety regulations being referred to repeatedly. It is a regulation that seeks to establish a safe working place for all by implementing a hierarchy that the employer must consider in their safety risk management system, it is the “principles of prevention”.

MHSWR (4) Principles of Prevention

“Where an employer implements any preventive and protective measures they shall do so on the basis of the principles of prevention”, So these are a set of principles to be followed in identifying appropriate measures in managing risk. Look-



The same bunker before (above) and after renovation (left), both the day after 10mm overnight rainfall, rebuilt using latest technological developments in bunker liners at Richmond Golf Club, how to reduce your manual handling burden.

containers, all of which play a part regardless of what sort of sports turf you manage. A hazard is not using a strimmer, in that instance the hazards are noise, vibration, errant golf shots, slips and trips, flammable and irritant substances, manual handling (carrying a load, stooping and twisting).

(c) Combating the risks at source

It is better to deal with a risk where it arises than through another method. So if an exhaust is broken, it is better to repair it than to issue hearing protection, if a surface is slippery it should be made safe rather than put out a hazard sign. Having air condition installed in tractor cabs so operators don't have to open windows on hot days, protecting them from noise, fumes and dust deals with three hazards at once! Combatting the risks at source is about dealing with the hazard at its point of origin before it can cause any harm.

(d) Adapting the work to the individual

Workstations should be adjustable, this is called ergonomics. It plays a big part in preventing accidents and in reducing stress and musculo skeletal disorders. Ergonomics can be as simple as seats on mowers or tractors being adjustable as should supporting harnesses on strimmers, back pack blowers, or any other supported load. However in considering the individual, we must acknowledge we are all different and have different capabilities. The rate of work should not be predetermined by the task. One colleague may be able to complete a very physical task, another may not be able to. By planning and allocating sufficient time to complete a task, rather than saying the best possible time we can achieve is X, the likelihood of musculo skeletal disorders is reduced.

ing at them, and at the Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) from a turf management perspective we can interpret them as follows:

(a) Avoiding risks

This is the first and most important principle. It is important that we try to eliminate risks before we can reduce them, the easiest route to a safe workplace is not to undertake anything that can cause injury or ill health.

However it is impossible to completely avoid risks in the workplace particularly where heavy machinery, manual labour and substances are used, so we let's look at the next principle.

(b) Evaluating the risks which cannot be avoided

If we cannot avoid the risk, we have to do a risk assessment, by doing this we should be able to evaluate the safest way of completing the task. That risk assessment should be appropriate to the nature of the work and identify all hazards that can create risk within the workplace. A hazard is something that can cause harm or ill health, some examples of hazards are; slips and trips, work at height, electricity, adverse weather, moving parts, workplace equipment, noise, vibration, substances, errant golf shots, manual handling tasks, fire, explosion, or pressurised



have adopted, when purchasing consider not only the equipment's productivity but how safe is it to use, is it easy to get off and on, is it too loud? Keep the workplace clean and tidy, create traffic routes and have them marked out if possible, and implement routine safety checks and periodic audits of your safety management system. Turfgrass managers are adept at integrated pest management, this is integrated safety management.

(h) Giving collective protective measures priority over individual protective measures

You will notice that this is 8th in the hierarchy of the principles, and it mentions the collective (all of us) and the individual (the person carrying out the task). Before we consider protecting the individual we must give priority to measures that protect the whole workplace. So when we consider the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), it should only be used when all other measures have been considered and the workplace made as safe as is reasonably practicable.

Regarding noise - your staff may be wearing the correct protection, but is a visitor protected, is the source of noise as quiet as possible, can it be contained with better sound dampening? When spraying pesticides are you spraying in the right conditions, if not, are you using the best possible nozzle to reduce drift, or is a wind foil a better option? If you have heavy machinery on the site, do you consider walkers, trespassers, young children and the allure of that equipment as well as your neighbours and golfers?

(i) Giving appropriate instructions to employees

Instructions should be as detailed as they need to be, back those instructions up with safety signs and make sure they are understood, toolbox talks, safety meetings and safety inspections all play a part in making sure that company procedures are followed. It is vital that safety procedures are communicated.

In the guidance that comes with the ACOP the HSE state "These are general principles rather than individual prescriptive requirements. They should, however, be applied wherever it is reasonable to do so. Experience suggests that, in the majority of cases, adopting good practice will be enough to ensure risks are reduced sufficiently". We must bear in mind here that by good practice the HSE mean apply the principles of prevention.



whilst the drainage capacity keeps sand well aerated and easier to rake reducing the manual handling load.

The employer has a duty to keep up to date with technical progress, ignorance is not a defence, however the implementation of such change has to be managed and done at a rate that is practicable. The development of new products is one of the reasons golf clubs should allow managers to attend events like BTME. It is at such events that new developments are launched. The manager should be attending such events with safety improvement as part of his remit.

(f) Replacing the dangerous with the non-dangerous or the less dangerous

Is that hazardous substance really the only way of doing the job? Can a less hazardous substance be used or can a biological approach be adopted? Rather than working on a ladder, can a scaffold tower be used? Is it better to use an axle stand, ramps, or should you invest in a powered lifting frame? Are you using extension leads that create tripping hazards to use power tools, or can they be battery operated? This principle is simply about downgrading the extent of the hazard, there is usually a safer way available for most tasks.

(g) Developing a coherent overall prevention policy

This relates to how you manage your health and safety policy, consider suppliers and subcontractors, ensure that they too work to the principles that you

(e) Adapting to technical progress

When new processes are developed that make the workplace safer, these should, if possible, be utilised. Technological progress is all about solving existing problems. This can include quieter equipment like electric mowers. Think how they are becoming more and more mainstream as battery technology advances, not only do they reduce carbon emissions but eliminate noise exposure and reduce vibration exposure.

Less harmful substances are developed by manufacturers not just for application as pesticides but in the maintenance of equipment too, does a degreaser have to be a solvent, can vegetable oils that are not irritants replace mineral oils that are irritants? A great example of technical progress is the latest bunker liner products, these prevent sand from washing down faces

ABOVE: good practice at Muswell Hill GC



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Section Notes

Please email your notes to
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by the 10th
of the month

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



Around the green

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Events Coming Up

EAST

Willie Woods Tournament at Greenburn GC on Wednesday August 13. This is an invitation pairs tournament with a better ball format. Let's try and replicate the numbers we had at our spring meeting at Goswick.

NORTH

I would just like to remind you that our Autumn Outing this year is a bit earlier than usual on Thursday 4 September at Inverurie Golf Club, we hope to see a good entry.

CENTRAL

Our next 2 events are a seminar on 6 August with Everris, probably at Elmwood and a visit to Trump International in Aberdeen on 20 August where John Bambury will talk about the build and grow in to where they are today. Details will be sent out by email and also will appear on the Central Section and Region websites as well as the Central Section Facebook page.

The autumn outing is at Dunfermline GC on 9 September, entry forms will be with you shortly and also available as above.

Best wishes to Derek Robson and his guys at The Dukes for the upcoming European Amateur Championships.

News

EAST

Dean Muir is moving from Muirfield to take up the role as Head Greenkeeper at The Machrie Links in Islay. Good luck Dean.

By the time you read this section update, our Secretary/Treasurer, Stuart Ferguson, will have completed his Open Support experience at Royal Liverpool. We look forward to hearing about your week at the Open.

Our recent social night at Musselburgh races had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. If any member feels they have a good idea of a possible social day/night, please get in touch."

NORTH

There has been some movement in the greenkeeping team at McDonald Golf Club in Ellon. John Geddes has stepped down as Head Greenkeeper and into semi retirement, so the new Head Greenkeeper is Bill Shepherd who has been at the club for over 30 years. Well done to him and all the best in his new position. John Geddes has been in greenkeeping for over 50 years so well done to him and I am sure he has seen a lot of changes over the years.

Some other people on the move, Scott Davidson is leaving Newmachar Golf Club to start a new job at Nippenburg Golf Club in Germany so best wishes to him for the future.

Steve Christie is also leaving Newmachar and is moving to the Paul Lawrie Golf Centre so best wishes to him also and I would like to thank them both for their commitment to the Golf Club. Christopher Watson has also moved on to be the new Irrigation Engineer at Donald Trump so good luck to him.

CENTRAL

Congratulations to Robert Patterson and his team at Royal Aberdeen and to Craig Gilholm and his at Hoylake for 2 superb weeks of tournament golf. Both courses looked tremendous.

We had a successful seminar on 9 July with Thomas Nikolai from Michigan State talking on green speeds. This was arranged at short notice once we knew Thomas was going to be in the area. Thanks to Gina Putman at Jacobsen for helping with this.

Welcome New Members

Martine Pow, Affiliate, Dormie Safety Systems, Tom Hobbis, Greenkeeper, Hon Company of Edinburgh Golfers, Jamie McGourlay, Greenkeeper, Helensburgh Golf Club, Douglas Sutherland, Assistant Greenkeeper, Ochil Developments - G West, Chris Prior, Assistant Greenkeeper, Bearsden Golf Club, Gregor MacDonald, Assistant Greenkeeper, Helensburgh Golf Club.

A new look

Based on feedback from the recent GI survey, we've refreshed and improved this section of the magazine.

Please send your news and photos in to your section correspondent or Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) by the 10th of each month

Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

NORTHERN

27 August is the invitation day at Dewsbury golf club. I apologise for the date dropping in a bank holiday week but it's the only date they could offer us! 1pm first tee so we can at least put in half a day to keep the top man happy, so grab one of your club officials and come along. The event is kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor and is always a fab day, and to top it off it's my birthday too so you can bring your gifts and cards instead of posting them!

NORTH WEST

The annual BIGGA/Rigby Taylor Whitelaw Bowl tournament will take place at Penrith GC on Thursday 11 September. The tee will be reserved from 1pm until 2pm. Please contact Phil Dewhurst for Tee times.

The North West section autumn tournament will be held at Ringway GC on 18 September, please contact David Weir to book your place on 07914 673550.

CLEVELAND

The John Deere roadshow is hitting the area and will be exhibiting fairway, rough, greens, tees, approaches and aeration equipment on 14 August at Washington Golf Club. Start time is 10am with coffee on arrival and lunch provided. This is a great opportunity to try out a wide range of equipment, so if you are interested contact Geoff Lowes of Greenlay Ltd.

Rockliffe Hall will be holding an English senior tour event 22-24 August and they are looking for volunteers. This tournament was a massive success last year assisted by an excellent turn out from BIGGA members from the North East and Cleveland sections. So if you fancy a bit of tournament support experience and you want to help out contact Pete Newton on 07855377989.

News

NORTHERN

We have just had our President's Day over at West Bradford GC. A fantastic day had by all, great course, sunny conditions perfect for scoring but most of us didn't! A big thank you goes also to the club, Richard and his staff looked after us.

Results: Div 1: 1 John Waite 2 Alan Baxter 3 Andy Slingsby! Div 2: 1 John Watts 2 Ken Christie 3 Ben K Jackson. Nearest pins: Andy Slingsby, Richard Pull. President's prize: John Watts.

Finally a special mention to Phil Brierley, Course Manager at Crosland Heath, who is in his 40th year of service to the club, great achievement.

NORTH EAST

Intersection match v Cleveland section played at Whitley Bay GC; This was a win for the north east section, but generally the banter within the groups of players was exceptional a thoroughly enjoyable day, and many thanks also to the members of the northern section who played too.

Summer competition held at Hexham golf club; Best trade: Joe Henderson 72. Nett places: 4 Ben Potter 77, 3 Jimmy Richardson 74, 2 Adam Lund 73, 1 and qualification for the national tournament Jack Friar 72. Best gross and also qualification for the national tournament David Wilkinson 72.

Massive thanks to David Wilkinson and his team at Whitley Bay and Malcolm Latham and his team at Hexham GC for the quality and presentation of both golf courses a pleasure to play both!

NORTH WEST

Well managing a golf course on your own takes its toll, but I have managed to get some time together and actually bring you some news, my apologies for absence of recent news.

The spring tournament was held at Stand GC on 16 April and long overdue thanks must go to Steve Hopkins and his team for all their efforts for producing a well presented course which was in great condition.

We would like to thank Hurlston Hall GC for hosting the summer tournament, the course was in great shape with some very nice pin positions. Thanks to Tony Smith and his team for all their hard work.

Results, Spring Tournament: 1 Richard Roberts 36 pts, 2 Mark Davis 35, 3 Chris Harding 34. Veteran Prize: Peter Hogan. Guest Prize: Gary Potter. Longest Drive: Richard Robert. Nearest the pin: Callum Scanlin. Summer results in next month's news.

CLEVELAND

Starting with Richmond Golf Club, recently Iain Leversuch the Deputy Head Greenkeeper had a serious accident out mountain biking and is going to be away from work for at least a month. Thankfully he was wearing all the appropriate safety equipment which did prevent a more serious outcome. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

NORTH WALES

The inaugural Campey pro-greenkeeper challenge took place at Hart Common GC on 19 June and it was a great day made even better with our section's Simon Ashford and Mark Sheppard coming out winners with a combined score of 7 under par.

Thanks to Sponsors

NORTHERN

Massive thanks to Mel Guy and Nick Grey from Bathgate Sands for sponsoring the President's Day, great company and a fantastic prize table.

NORTH EAST

Thanks to TSL for sponsoring intersection match. Thanks to Rickerbys and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the summer competition.

NORTH WEST

A big thank you to all our sponsors.

Welcome New Members

Matthew Teasdale, Greenkeeper, Rockliffe Hall Golf Club, Johnathan Harrison, Assistant Greenkeeper, Garforth Golf Club.

Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

MID ANGLIA

Our next golf day is the Summer pairs comp at Dunstable Downs GC on 7 August. Cost is £50 per pair and includes coffee and bacon roll from midday first tee off at 1pm, and an evening meal where jackets and ties will be required.

Our autumn meeting is also booked at Northants County GC on 22 October this is also our AGM so please take note of these dates and we expect these to be very popular events.

News

MIDLAND

Well here (yes I know, the James Joyces amongst you, all will become clear, as mud) we are. Yet again I have nothing to report this month. Oh hang on - Phil Morris (dancer) celebrates his big 50th this month. He has served Stratford-On-Avon G.C. for over 30 of those years, by God you don't get that for murder! From us all a very happy Birthday, enjoy your Jack Daniels.

For a few years I have a problem with ear defenders causing a sore spot on the outside of my external ear lobe, so I stopped wearing them. Bad move. It has affected my hearing at a noticeable degree. So I started to wear internal plugs, all good and well, until I pulled one out very quickly, I thought that my ear drum had burst the pain was so bad. I advocate that you use the ear phone type as they are far more effective, but if you have to use internal ones take them out slowly, very slowly.

Right, must go and get fly gear in car, off fluff flinging with dad for 9 days. He's already there singing "Suo Gan", albeit in powder form.

Thanks to Sponsors

MIDLAND

This month's calendar picture is of Astbury Hall GC, not a blade of grass or grain of sand out of place, very impressive indeed. The kind sponsors of the page are Limagrain U.K. For all your seed needs please consider contacting Matt Gresty (amenity seed specialist) on: 07767 278 335 or email: matthew.gresty@limagrain.co.uk .

MID ANGLIA

A massive thanks to our Sponsors of the section for 2014: ALS, Headland Amenity, Avoncrop Amenity, Farmura, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Tuckwells Machinery. We thank you for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section. Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond. If you feel you may be interested in sponsoring Mid Anglia Section in 2014 please contact a committee member for details.

Welcome New Members

Daniel White, Greenkeeper, Henley Golf Club, Steven Heneghan, Greenkeeper, Henley Golf Club, Daniel Currie, Greenkeeper, Lutterworth Golf Club, Ian Payne, Greenkeeper, Bedfordshire Golf Club, Jack Greenfield, Assistant Greenkeeper, Stoke Rochford Golf Club, David Thorp, Assistant Greenkeeper, Stoke Rochford Golf Club.

Come and see us at SALTEX

Royal Windsor Racecourse 2-4 September 2014

South East

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



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Events Coming Up

SURREY

Match v Reps Hankley Common GC 17 September
Surrey Bowl Final Foxhills GC 30 September

News

EAST ANGLIA

Golf Day Results: 0-9 1 Mike Virley, 2 Grahame Hurren. 10-18 1 Tony Thacker, 2 Glen Halliday. 19-28 1 Martin Brightwell, 2 Andy Baker. Trade and guest: 1 Colin Rushbrook, 2 Mick Varley. Nearest pin & longest drive: Matt Osling. Toilet seat for tripping over rope on 1st tee that he put out day before: Alan Ward. Also, we welcome to the section new Head Greenkeeper at Swaffham, Allan Golding.

SURREY

Designed in 1910 by W Herbert Fowler, few can doubt the beauty of West Surrey GC which is located in Godalming near Guildford. Ranked as one of Golf Monthly's Top 50 UK Parkland Courses, it features

attractive tree-lined fairways and contrasting scenes of the magnificent Surrey landscape.

The course itself winds slowly upwards towards its highest point 440 feet above sea level, around the 16th tee. From there, apart from a teasing climb to the 17th, it begins a gentle descent back to the old Surrey farmhouse style clubhouse.

The view from the 18th tee down to the clubhouse and over to the Hogs Back is one to remember.

This has been home and Mike Kirkham's office for over 39 years as Head Greenkeeper. Mike has played an enormous role at the club, overseeing major construction of new free draining, sand based greens to USGA standard in 2002.

On 27 June the section gathered for the National Qualifier event and celebrated Mike's retirement with family and friends. Mike, look forward to seeing you at some of the section events, Willmott, Weston and Kirkham, this just might be the next super team!

Alec MacIndoe from Newbury & Crookham GC is Mike's replacement, wishing you the very best.

West Surrey GC Cresta Cup and National Qualifier Results: 1 Jason Hunt gross 73, 2 Phil Beanie 3 Scott Roberts. Longest Drive: Alex Bernadello. Nearest Pin Mark Zealander. Thanks to West Surrey GC for a warm welcome and all the staff who ensured we all had a great National Qualifier event on a memorable day for the section with the retirement of Mike Kirkham. Jason Hunt and Scott Roberts will represent the section at Liphook GC later in the year.

Thanks to Sponsors

EAST ANGLIA

Thanks to golf day sponsors.

Main sponsor - Tomlinson groundcare.

Other sponsors - Rigby Taylor, Everris, Aitkins, Toro (Lely) UK, Tacit.

Welcome New Members

Terry Young, Greenkeeper, Burstead Golf Club, Adam Deadman, Greenkeeper, Burstead Golf Club, Martin Venner, Greenkeeper, Stockley (Park) Pines Golf Club, Joseph Cartwright, Greenkeeper, Hever Castle Golf Club, Hendry Rheeders, Head Greenkeeper, Hinckley Golf Club, Russell Carr, Assistant Greenkeeper, Goodwood Club Ltd, Chris Byrne, Assistant Greenkeeper, Stockley (Park) Pines Golf Club.

BIGGA are on Stand G98



South West & South Wales

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



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bowood.org



SOUTH COAST –
Russell Riley,
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farmers.co.uk



**DEVON &
CORNWALL**
Cameron Mcmorrin
cjmcmorrin@gmail.
com



SOUTH WALES
Andrew Hatcher
andrewhatcher1@
msn.com

Events Coming Up

SOUTH COAST

On behalf of the Section I would also like to wish Rob and his team at Remedy Oak all the best for the up and coming works they are about to undertake - the small task of rebuilding 17 greens. We will all have the opportunity to see the results of this first hand, on the 5 November at the AGM to be held at Remedy Oak, with a course walk being given by Rob in the morning prior to the AGM.

Tracey Harvey will be sending out invitations for the Golf Management Trophy, to be held at Parkstone Golf Club on September 5 sponsored by Everris.

SOUTH WEST

Excavator training in both basic and refresher will be available shortly. We have had strong interest and attendance on refresher courses recently with 35 members completing this training over the last two years, please express your interest promptly.

We have also had calls for training in specialist areas particularly a PA2 upgrade from apprenticeship qualifications, again please express your interest promptly to either Paul Worster (paulw@mgcnew.co.uk), tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk or myself.

On 29 October we are at Chippenham Golf Club with Campey Turf Care running a demonstration day. In the afternoon BIGGA Vice Chairman Les Howkins MG will be presenting Budgeting for the Modern Course.

It is essential that places are booked for this day and at £10 including lunch this is great value. Contact Paul (paulw@mgcnew.co.uk) or Adam (adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk)

South West Section AGM will be held on Thursday 9 October at Saltford Golf Club. This event will be taking a new format involving 9 holes of golf followed by an educational presentation and meal. Contact any of the committee members to reserve place.

Invitations have been sent to all Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers for the Everris Golf Management Trophy to be held at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club on 20 August. Contact tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk

Christmas Tournament and charity raffle will be held on 17 December at Cirencester Golf Club, we expect to see everyone there entries are open!

News

SOUTH COAST

Congratulations to Alan Magee and his staff for producing a golf course in terrific condition for our summer tournament.

1st place was Beverley Blair and Dave King with 38pts (who obviously both enjoy the odd chilli!). 2 Mike Cartwright and Ryan Hyder 34 (countback) 3 John Elsbury and Luke Elgie 34. The young guns were shown how to hit the ball with longest drive going to Tony Gadd, and nearest the pin to Beverley Blair.

For all other up and coming news and events visit biggasouthcoast.org.uk, Russell Riley, South Coast Secretary, 07824 826974, rriley@countrywidefarmers.co.uk

DEVON & CORNWALL

Wednesday 9 July the Devon v Cornwall match was played at Truro Golf Club. I would like to thank Truro Golf Club for letting us host the event and for all the catering.

I would also like to thank Brian Summers who stepped down at Truro. Brian was one of the original founding members of the Devon and Cornwall BIGGA section over 30 years ago. I would like to thank him for everything he has done for the section.

Results: Longest drive on the 7th: Went to Sean Chapman. Longest Drive on the 11th: Gavin Moore. Nearest the pin on the 8th: Martin Samuel. Nearest the pin on 16th Sean Chapman. Top three: 1 Mike Bush and Sean Chapman, 2 on count back to 3 Dave Daw and Martin Samuel, 3 Gavin Moore and Gary Tuckett, The annual match play was won by Devon.

SOUTH WALES

We play for the patrons cup at Neath GC 1st tee 12.30 & course walk 2.30 on 6 August. The results of the Everris Golf Management competition and patrons cup next month.

The section wishes Henry Stead all the best in his retirement after varied career at courses across Wales & England.

Rhys Williams will start this month as Head Greenkeeper at the Grove GC. Originally at the club for 3 years as an assistant then a move to Royal Porthcawl GC for 3 years, we wish you all the best in your new role.

SOUTH WEST

The Countrywide Knockout competition has been progressing well with the following teams qualifying for the quarter finals: Mike Sage and Leigh Mordy, Kyle Knight and Matt Law, Zac Brooks and Lee Whyte, Jamie Greenside and Simon Key with a number of matches to be completed in the coming weeks.

A strong delegation from the South West was on hand in the BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal Liverpool Golf Club. Chris Sealey, John Keenaghan, Jaey Goodchild and Tom Freeman were on hand to help keep things running smoothly.

Thanks to Sponsors

DEVON & CORNWALL

Thanks to Mason Kings and Symbio for sponsoring the Devon v Cornwall match.

SOUTH WEST

Many thanks to our South West Section 2014 Patrons: Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, Ecosolve, T H White, Indigrow and Sportsmark and for their invaluable support.

Welcome New Members

Christopher Load, Greenkeeper, Cirencester Golf Club.

Welcome New International Members

Wesley Saunders, International Greenkeeper, St Michaels Golf Club (Australia), Raymond Donaldson, International Greenkeeper, Westlake Golf Club (South Africa).



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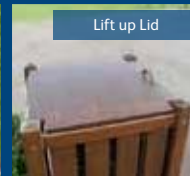


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Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month, David Golding, GTC's Education Director, invited Laurence Pithie from Turf Master One to explain his role

David Golding, GTC's Education Director, invited Laurence Pithie from Turf Master One to explain his role, through workshops, seminars and course visits. He also discussed how he shares the GTC's aims and objectives, not only to maintain greenkeeper education and training standards but also to help educate the employer.

David first met Laurence in the mid 1970's as the pair had taken on Head Greenkeeper roles as young men in the Manchester area, sharing the trials and tribulations of being a youthful Head Greenkeeper.

As Laurence's career developed, one ongoing area of golf course management has always remained a concern and that is the relationship between the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and their employer.

The GTC, with the support of England Golf, the Scottish Golf Union, Golf Union of Wales and BIGGA has in recent years embarked on developing employer focused workshops/seminars to assist Proprietors, Chair of Green, Convenors, Directors of Golf understand the various maintenance and management practices a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper carries out on a golf course.

One such education programme has been developed by the GTC with Laurence and continues to remain popular with employers and Course Managers.

When these workshops were first introduced in 2011, David said he suspected some scepticism amongst greenkeepers as to why the GTC were looking to "educate" employers. Thankfully this proved unfounded as it has been arguably the best initiative ever to forge a better relationship between employers and greenkeepers.

Laurence, as a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider, takes up the story: "When courses are in good condition and being managed in a professional and consistent manner, it is usually an indication

that both club and course management are well structured. Successfully run clubs have a clear vision of what their goals and objectives are, no different to any well-run business.

"Having a policy document is the starting point and sets out how the course should look, play and how it is maintained. Once standards are agreed and resources determined, it then becomes easier for both management and maintenance to form a united front to meet these objectives. This usually revolves around a 'triangle of management' whereby the General Manager, The Owner or Chairman of Green and the Course Manager work closely as a team to meet customers' expectations and within the agreed budget.

"With this in mind, the key aspect of the 'Employer' based workshops is to give club officials a basic understanding of golf course management and what this entails. It also highlights the importance of working within an organised structure and that the Chairman of Green and Course Manager forge a good working relationship.

"It is important that each understands their respective roles within the club in order to achieve the common goal of producing a well maintained golf course with excellent playing surfaces.

"Club officials have few opportunities to understand the challenges faced by Course Managers and why certain tasks need to be carried out and at the most optimum time to produce good turf quality. Employer led workshops help to achieve this and to break down any barriers that may exist between management and maintenance. They are interactive, at times light hearted and focus on the realities of managing fine turf. To date, 20 have been held within Britain, with a similar workshop presented in Holland to the Dutch NVG.

"Greenkeeper education has improved considerably since 1970 when I first started as an apprentice greenkeeper and enrolled at Elmwood College near St Andrews



The GTC is funded by:



on a day release basis. I believe that at the time, this was the only college of its kind where both the theory and practice of golf course maintenance was taught. 40 years later, there are numerous courses available for all levels of turf students and graduates with many offering a variety of courses, many of these being online.

"GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers give support to this network as well as to clubs and individuals by focusing on aspects such as Health & Safety, equipment and irrigation maintenance, bunker renovation work and so on. Their level of knowledge and expertise in these areas, gives additional support within the training system, especially for employers."

David reiterated that The GTC will continue to work with the employer led organisations to support them in their continual efforts in improving relationships and understanding required between the employer and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper.

Contact Details

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GTC Education Director
and Standards Director,
Greenkeeper Training

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Aldwark Manor
Near Alne
York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk
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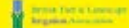
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rachael@bigga.co.uk

Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

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Completed entry forms should be sent to:
BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF



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There will be prizes for the first five over 36 holes in the gross category. The top three in the nett competition will also receive prizes. After each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. There will also be various nearest the pin and longest drive competitions, featuring prizes.

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The candidate would ideally be computer literate, conversant in fire regulations and hold a current First Aid certificate but this is not essential.

The full time position will include some greenkeeping duties, especially during preparation for major tournaments, so some interest and basic knowledge of greenkeeping would be an advantage.

Please apply by post to: General Manager, Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, Trinity Lane, Chipping Sodbury BS37 6PU or by email to:

info@chippingsodburygolfclub.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 8th August



Newquay Golf Club

Newquay Golf Club is an 18 hole private members club situated in Cornwall. Founded in 1890 this Harry Colt designed layout is situated along the world famous Fistral Beach and prides itself as being one of the best links courses in the South West.

The opportunity has arisen for Newquay Golf Club to seek and appoint a Head Greenkeeper.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate high levels of management skills, communication and leadership within the role and will hold relevant greenkeeping and/or agronomy qualifications. Previous experience as a Head Greenkeeper is desirable but not essential.

A more detailed job description can be found on www.newquaygolfclub.co.uk and www.bigga.org.uk

Applicants should in the first instance send a comprehensive CV accompanied by a covering letter stating why you are interested in the post and what you will bring to the role to: The Chairman of the Management Committee, Newquay Golf Club, Tower Road, Newquay, Cornwall, TR7 1LT or email to info@newquaygolfclub.co.uk
Closing date for applications: 31st August 2014

Assistant Greenkeeper Moor Park Golf Club

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Salary will be negotiated according to experience and skills and will include a number of benefits.

Closing date: Friday 29th August 2014

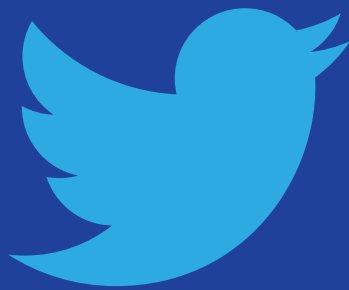
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A new page featuring the best Tweets and pics from the industry – don't forget to tag @BIGGALtd to give yourself a chance of being featured!

Our favourite tweets this month...

@jackdavies_turf

Had a great laugh with a top bunch of people at The Open and experienced the peak of our industry, so inspiring!

@Clanky23

Had a fantastic week at the Open. Big thank you to all at @BIGGALtd who made it happen. A great association to be a part of! #timetosleep

@Sammy3334

@BIGGALtd Brilliant time being part of #TheOpen Support Team! Met some great people! #networking #contacts #banter #experience

@CLTKAZ

An amazing experience to be part of BIGGA'S Open Support Team. Great bunch of lads and thanks to BIGGA for giving me this opportunity :)

@gord_mckie

@jenky0 looking good in the peach shirt @BIGGALtd on 17 with @TheSergioGarcia

@RLGCHoylake

#RLGC An RT for our amazing Greenkeeping staff and volunteers? Craig is very proud #TheOpen #Golf

@LickeyHillsGolf

A big shout out to all the @BIGGALtd greenkeepers at @The_Open and well done on a great week @BBCSport @SkySportsGolf

@the_iog

#SALTEX2014 'comes alive' with turf-specific debates for this and much more all #free register

@stannesgreens

Cracking morning to be in the office! Greens being cut, verti cutting aprons, raking bunkers & divotting fairways

@LondonGolfClub

It was a great pleasure to welcome our course architect @jacknicklaus at LGC today #golflegend #golf



@martinwoods50



@niknak220 @NEBIGGA section lads at Hoylake



@sandra48077948



Open selfie with Harvey Brooke, Sam Evans and Jack Hetherington!



Jack Nicklaus @ LondonGolfClub



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