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WELCOME FROM BIGGA

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 wins against Royal Portrush Golf Club in the Senior British Open. This well deserved opportunity puts the spotlight on Ian Rainey 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 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 wins against Royal Portrush Golf Club in the Senior British Open. This well deserved opportunity puts the spotlight on Ian Rainey and his team and we know they will be up to the task.

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It is gratifying to see the Head Greenkeepers’ 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 Cruxtont, BIGGA CEO
For a legendary performance of turf equipment, one brand—Jacobsen—stands alone.

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MEMBER STORY

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.

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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 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.

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.

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Chris

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.
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 groundsmen 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 groundsmen and greenkeepers. Staff to the high standards of playing surfaces and the sustainability of British sport.

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 groundsmen and members, plus additional awards that celebrate excellence at grassroots level, also new this year are three awards for the golf industry. The IOG has teamed forces with BIGGA to introduce three categories that will recognise the achievements of greenkeepers the length and breadth of the UK, whatever 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.”

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Chris and his team of four (plus an apprentice) have done an amazing job 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 some modern, safer and safer facilities to work from and I’m delighted to say that’s what we’ve got.”

NEW IOG INDUSTRY AWARDS

NOMINATE A GREENKEEPER FOR
NEW IOG INDUSTRY AWARDS

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, BSSIS 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 RHA 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, Taic, Floratine, Barenburg and Anderssons for the support they gave before and during the event.

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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.

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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 Walsh 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 to laying the concrete floor and assisting with other tasks, and greenkeepers working to reunite irrigation, electricity, telephone lines and instal water.

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

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“Everyone at the club recognised that to provide the best course possible, we needed newer 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 and 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 limiting 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 carboxylate 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 is given 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-accretion heavy wear through a tournament or the autumn renovation programmes, be 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 tussocks 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 longer 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.

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

Regulating turf growth has been shown to increase by up to 20% with improved playing surface mowing frequency and time, along with the improved playing surface, greenkeepers can use tools to manage turf more effectively.

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-accretion heavy wear through a tournament or the autumn renovation programmes, be 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 tussocks 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 longer 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.
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.”

**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 and 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
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BUZZ AT LEIGHTON

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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.

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Dr Terry Mabbett
Your chance of a lifetime

sponsored by

BERNHARD
grinders

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.

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.
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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.

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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 is 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 advise whether making a claim might be suitable.

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.anaa.org.uk and www.hse.gov.uk

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Pull Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline 0800 234 5678
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance 0800 177 7981

Welfare Counselling Helpline 0844 770 1036

www.acas.org.uk and www.hse.gov.uk

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SIMPLY UNIQUE

This is 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, finally run over with the SMARTVibe™ to true-up the surface.
Improve air circulation; help moisture retention and give the plant more light.

Angus O'Dowd

www.advancedtt.com

20/20/30 tank mix
A plant health strategy to keep grass fighting fit!

www.headlandamenity.com

See us at Saltex 2014 on The Grass Group stand

The system is fully compatible with all mainstream triplex greens mowers, as well as ATT’s dedicated pedestrian unit - INFiNiSystem™.
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 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 helping 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.”
AUGUST 2014

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 *Socialsaltsex* 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 Beverley Bechtle, 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.
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 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 grounds-care 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 & Charlton’s comprehensive equipment portfolio. A host of brands are available from Lister Wilder – including Campey/Dakota/Imants/ Omairy/Raycam/Vredo, Pendi, Hayter, Hozda, Massey Ferguson, SnowEx, Timberwolf, Trimax, Tufinech, Viking and Wessex.

On the George Browns stand, visitors will be able to access Barrowes, 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.

NEW PRODUCTS

IG SALTEX 2014 SPECIAL EDITION

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 Micovite range, the ‘S’ 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.

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 Stand 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 CSI as the most effective machine for the removal of thatch.

NEW 'S' RANGE

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

First up in Trilo’s new 8 range of vacuum sweepers, designed to reflect today’s four-man 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 4MM capacity of the S4, through 4MM and up to 20MM. The modular build of the S line mean options, including side setup, implements and intake 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 TMSystem™ 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 INFiniSystem™ 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.

The INFiNiSystem™ provides the ability to use the same cassette at any depth, simultaneously providing the flexibility to go over all the ATT family systems. 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 INFiniSystem™ 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 INFiniSystem™, the light fairway setup offers even greater productivity. The labour saving and reduced lifetime costs are a great benefit providing the versatility of one 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 Rotodrain, 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.

THE GRASS GROUP SHOW OFF TRILÒ’S NEW ‘S’ RANGE

Visit the SALTEX website (www.igasaltex.com) for the complete line-up of equipment being shown.
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**NEW PRODUCTS**

**POLYPRO FERTILISER ON SHOW FROM RIGBY TAYLOR**

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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 and pedestrian aerators.

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.

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 Bloom, “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.

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 2508B 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 A60 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 verticutter attachment.

Tom James
The latest products on the market reviewed

The atmospheric and pedestrian aerators. surrounds and rough mowers

SMART MOVE FOR JOHN DEERE

The venue? Morley Hayes, GI End of last year to engineer the operation has been far larger

With fuel issues always worrying about. The new 7200A PrecisionCut, other John Deere machines. used is new - it's all proven on the 7200A and 7400A, wheel motors boost traction

Feedback from industry professionals. Hydraulics have been reconfigured to let the operator to change turning circles. centralised controls that features such as tighter, faster contour-hugging articulation

Tom James Previewing before official launch in spring 2015, the new variety follows hot on the heels of some 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 AberRoyal 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. That, 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 Germinal Seeds.

RESISTANCE FOR GREENER GREENS

Germinal 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.

AberRegal is Germinal 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, firmness 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 AberRoyal to his course.

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FOR GREENER RESISTANCE

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.

e-mail: enquiries@gripclad.co.uk

website: www.gripclad.co.uk
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 greenskeepers, the desire to utilise 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 built, 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 greenskeepers 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 greenskeepers in terms of maintenance practices.

“It is 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
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For more information contact
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Midhurst, West Sussex ............................ 01730 819981
Hinckley, Leicestershire ........................... 01455 638960

Strong August turf growth
can restrict establishment of new
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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
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attack.

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 Bunker 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 drier
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
esential 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 Qualia
wetting agent programme
that builds 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.

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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.

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 Worksop’s 18 holes. He described it as having inland links characteristics as it’s surrounded by gorse, 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 Worksop, 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 Ramside Park Golf Centre, then he had four years at Riddles 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 though the leisure industry was a pretty secure place to work. But the reces-
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At Wollaton Park, a stint 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’ve 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 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.”

At the moment it’s probably 50% heathland, 50% parkland. The grasses have changed, they’ve got a lot of new grasses around 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 the membership want Coxmoor restored to its pure heathland roots.

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 the membership want Coxmoor restored to its pure heathland roots.

The team’s aeration programme varies. This year they vertidrained during his time at Worksop, something which many greenkeepers will be familiar with.

“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 presentation of the course was very complimentary. It’s great that a Worksop member won it!”

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.

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“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.”

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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)

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 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.

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...
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 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.

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.

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Precipitation Rate Calculation

Information Required:
- Sprinkler Configurations
- Sprinkler Nozzles Size (mm)
- Nozzle Operating Pressure (psi)
- Distance Between Sprinklers (feet)
- Flow Rate (gpm)
- Days of Operation

Calculations:
- Flow Rate (gpm) 
  - Sprinkler Nozzles Size (mm)
  - Nozzle Operating Pressure (psi)
- Distance Between Sprinklers (feet)
- Flow Rate (gpm) 

Sprinkler Flow: 100 litres per min
Sprinkler Arc Setting: eg: assume 70 degrees

Spacing (m) x Spacing (m) = 15 (mm/hr)
Flow (l/min) x 60 = 150 (mm/hr)

Required Application Rate = 150 (mm/hr) / 15 (mm/hr) = 10 l/min

Checking soil moisture for irrigation scheduling

Managing soil moisture is an important aspect of golf course management as the desire to produce faster farmer 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 (vwc) 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 root zone 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-
Sprinkler Flow: 100 litres per min

Sprinkler Configuration: 20m x 20m

Spacing between Sprinklers

Information Required –

Checking soil moisture for irrigation scheduling

ment with a trajectory of 15 degrees

angle nozzles or trajectory adjust

around 25 degrees whilst with low

angle of sprinkler trajectory is

trajectory adjustment. The normal

low angle nozzles or sprinklers with

inertia into the wind; or by using

using nozzles with a higher flow

sprinkler spacing in relation to

night as generally wind will often be

changing. This is one of the reasons

why irrigation occurs during the

wind. All these options may have

ways of improving sprinkler cover

wind and provide the most uniform

throw and waste of water.

however, in most circumstances

a negative influence on uniformity,

inner nozzles from the effects of

age, however, it should be noted it

of sprinkler nozzles. Nozzles may

research and development now

of the wind. Of course the range

however, the readings taken from

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enhance, the unique range of turf fertilisers with Amino-Sorb®, has been extended for use on all types of sports and managed amenity turf.

The range now includes:

- Enhance  football
  Micro-granular bio-active fertilizer formula.
  Formulations: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter.

- Enhance  football
  Drip-irrigation bio-active liquid fertilizer.
  Formulations: Summer, Autumn.

- Enhance  football
  Granular bio-active fertilizer suitable for long-range
  Formulations: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter.

- Enhance  football
  Unique water soluble powder fertilizer with
  Formulations: Turf enhancer, Winter, Spring.

For full details of these and the full Vitax Amenity range of turf products visit our new website at www.vitaxamenity.co.uk or call us on 01530 510060

According to the equation:

\[
\text{required application rate per day (mm/hr)} = \frac{\text{sprinkler run time} (\text{in minutes}) \times \text{sprinkler spacing (m)} \times \text{sprinkler flow (l/min)} \times 60}{\text{precipitation rate (mm per hour)}}
\]

For a square spacing to the

work 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. Remember 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 observation 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.
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.
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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 marque 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

Craig said: “Everything’s in place, we’ve been working with STTH 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 Trimbble (Mere – R&A Scholar), Tore Hansen (Norway – R&A Scholar), Rose Mitchell (Carrewest), Clive Anderson (Royal St George’s), Martin Turner (St Andrews), Murray White (Muirfield), Andrew Moore (Royal Lytham & St Anne), 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’re 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 1.1m. 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, with the same average firmness as the greens.
- Saturday’s heavy rain on the pace. Greens were rolled at 11th 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.
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THE OPEN 2014

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

PREPARING FOR THE OPEN

Craig with the BIGGA Support Team on Wednesday evening.

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

BELOW: The Royal Liverpool greenkeeping team at work on Wednesday evening.
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 which let us get everything done in preparation 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 Caeroy from Blackmoor Golf Club, Greg Richardson from West Surrey Golf Club, Graeme Roberts from Tandridge Golf Club, Andy Haskell (Armie) 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 Trimmie 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 Aneux 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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Pics – Gareth Roberts, Gwynn Davies, Hankley Common prep
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 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 11-blade units already employed by the club, he decided to go full electric - petrol and diesel powered alternatives, which is just right for our needs. The eFlex models replaced conventional petrol models and Craig came up with a solution.

The diesel powered hybrid Toro TriFlex 3420-D have proved a hit too, doing away with hydraulics to the adjustable mower blades 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 units 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 onboard 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 now five greens per charge with groomers and push brushes, which is just right for our needs. The eFlex models replaced conventional TriFlex 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, 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 greenskeeping 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 in 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 Liver-pool 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 an 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.”
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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.
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MEMBER STORY

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 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 told 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 1l/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.

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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 18°C. 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!
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To keep track of the work at Bearwood Lakes visit the blog at blgcgd.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

SandCatcher bunker liners are performance engineered high loft non woven sand stabilisation products, designed to meet the needs of architects, builders and course superintendents the world over. Superior to other bunker liners, they have proven to have less ‘pickup’, in other words a club is less likely to catch the fibre, whilst still retaining the ability to hold the sand in place.

**SandCatcher 250**
- For bunker bases
- Each roll covers 100m²
- Stabilises sand
- Prevents soil contamination
- Improves drainage

**SandCatcher 750**
- For bunker faces
- Each roll covers 50m²
- Holds sand on the steepest slopes
- Improves aesthetics
- Decreases sand wash out

Discover more at [www.indigrow.com](http://www.indigrow.com)
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 without the 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 expenditure against taxable profits in the year of purchase.

EU Water Framework Directive and qualifies for 100% capital expenditure on a reducing balance basis.

Free Finance Package

YEAR INTEREST-FREE FINANCE on the Waste2Water 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.

Buy Now Pay Later - just 8 x quarterly payments!

Of course, there is no need to apply for or forms to fill in! Our scheme couldn’t be simpler!

The Above-Ground Dirt Settle Tank allows easy removal of very easy to maintain and you can see what’s going on, ensuring there are no undetected underground systems!

Our Above-Ground system is expensive specialist waste contractors to empty the tanks, as with underground systems!

Capital Allowances enable businesses to write off their capital expenditure against taxable profits in the year of purchase.

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!

The standard Annual Capital Allowance (ECA) provides a very handy cash flow boost with full tax relief in year 1!
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 - 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 massive 90% and tidies up one of the worst aspects of golf course maintenance.

Our Above-Ground system is very easy to maintain and you can see what’s going on, ensuring there are no undetected underground leaks.

The Above-Ground Dirt Settle-Tank allows easy removal of the dirt from the recycling system at no cost! And you don’t need expensive specialist waste contractors to empty the tanks, as with underground systems!

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
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 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-
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 to not undertake anything that can cause injury or ill health.

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

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, trips, work at height, electricity, adverse weather, moving parts, workplace equipment, noise, vibration, substances, errant golf shots, manual handling tasks, fire, explosion, or pressurised 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).

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 conditioning 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! Combating the risks at source is about dealing with the hazard at its point of origin before it can cause any harm.

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 musco 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 musco skeletal disorders is reduced.
(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 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 HTME. 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 all 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 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.

(b) 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 walkways, trespassers, young children and the allure of heavy machinery on the site, do you consider walkways, trespassers, young children and the allure of this 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.

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Take Control of Premium Cut Quality

Our NEW generation of Fairway Mowers redefine cut quality and combine it with uncompromising productivity. Take advantage of our latest innovations like eHydro operation, TechControl management and SpeedLink cutting unit adjustment. Achieve the cut quality your course desires with the NEW A-Series.

Freephone 0800 085 25 22
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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 Elsham 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 Dirranbandie GC on 9 September, entry forms will be with you shortly and also available 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.

Scotland

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

Their Section correspondent says:

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 Elgin. 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 Nikulai 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


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...

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! I will 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 BRGGA/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 Greenslay Ltd.

Rockcliffe 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 BRGGA members from the North East and Clevelend sections. So if you fancy a bit of tournament support experience and you want to help out contact Pete Newton on 0785377989.

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.


Finally a special mention to Phil Brierley, Course Manager at Crookland 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 banner 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 Heslam golf club, Best trade: Joe Henderson 72. Nett places: 4 Ben Potter 77, 3 Jimmy Richardson 74, 2 Adam L und 73. 1 and qualification for the national tournament Jack Priar 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 Heslam 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 Shand 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 Hurfton 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.


CLEVELAND
Starting with Richmond Golf Club, recently lain 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. Thankfullly 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 Ashbed 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 Barthgate 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 Rickettys and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the summer competition.

NORTH WEST
A big thank you to all our sponsors.

Welcome New Members
Matthew Teasdale, Greenkeeper, Rockcliffe Hall Golf Club, Johnathan Harrison, Assistant Greenkeeper, Garforth Golf Club.
Events Coming Up

MID ANGLIA

Our next golf day is the Summer pairs comp at Dunstable Downs GC on 28 August. Cost is £50 per pair and includes coffee and bacon roll from us at SALTEX. Come and see our autumn meeting is also booked at Northants County GC on 22 October this year. Our autumn meeting is also booked at Northants County GC on 22 October this year.

Welcome New Members


Thanks to Sponsors

MIDLARD

This month’s calendar picture is of Astbury Hall GC, 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 Hog’s 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!

Welcome New Members


South East

Events Coming Up

SURREY

Match v Bega Harlaxton Common GC 17 September Surrey Bowl Final Fovells GC 20 September

News

EAST ANGLIA

Golf Day Results: 0-9 1 Mike Virley, 2 Grahame Hurren. 10-18 1 Tony Tacknes, 2 Glen Halliday. 19-28 1 Martin Brightwell, 2 Andy Baker.

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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 Gani”, albeit in powder form.

Thanks to Sponsors

**MID ANGLIA**

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This has been borne out by 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, just this month might be the next super team!

**MID ANGLIA**

A massive thanks to our Sponsors of the section for 2014: ALS, Headland Amenity, Avoncrop Amenity, Farmrys, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Tuilcullis Machinery.

We thank you for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section. Banks Amenity also sponsored our Golf 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**


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**South East**

**Events Coming Up**

**SURRY**

Match v Beps Harley Common GC 17 September
Surrey Bowl Final Foulsham GC 30 September

**News**

**SURRY**

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 Ossig. 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, Allian Golding.

**Welcome New Members**

**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 (paulex@mgnrew.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 £30 including lunch this is great value. Contact Paul (paulex@mgnrew.co.uk) or Adam (adam.l.matthews@countrywidefarmers.co.uk) marksmith@msn.com or myself.

20 October we are at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club with Countrywide Farmers presenting how to hit the ball with longest drive going to Tony Gadd, and nearest the pin to Beverley Blair. We will all have the opportunity to see his team at Remedy Oak all the best for the up and coming 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.

**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 hosting us 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: West 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 Turckett. 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 a 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 2 years as an assistant then a move to Royal Portrush GC for 3 years, we wish you all the best in your new role.

**South West**

The Countywide 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 Keneanagh, Guy Goodchild and Tom Freeman were on hand to keep things running smoothly.

**Thanks to Sponsors**

**Devon & Cornwall**

Thanks to Mason Rings and Symbo for sponsoring the Devon v Cornwall match.

**South West**

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

**Welcome New Members**

Christopher Lead, 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).
AUGUST 2014

events or anything else for Around the green...

on 17 December at Cirencester Golf Club, we expect to see... Contact tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk

Course Managers for the Everris Golf Management Trophy committee members to reserve place.

a new format involving 9 holes of golf followed by an educational presentation and meal. Contact any of the... presenting Budgeting for the Modern Course.

afternoon BIGGA Vice Chairman Les Howkins MG will be to either Paul Worster (paulw@mgcnew.co.uk), tracey.

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GI

Wales & South

Devon & Cornwall

News

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drive on the 11th: Gavin Moore. Nearest the pin on the 8th: Martin... course in terrific condition for our summer tournament,.
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 B&GGA has in recent years embarked on developing employer focussed workshops/seminars to assist Proprietors, Chair of Green, Convenors, Directors of Golf, Understood 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 Trainer, 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 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.
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LOVIE QUARRIE & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Lovie Quarry & Concrete Products, a family-owned company with a total commitment to quality and service have, since 1990 been developing and perfecting a range of specialist products for use in the construction and maintenance of sports fields and golf courses. Major capital investment in plant and machinery ensures that specially selected materials from our own quarries are processed to meet the very demanding standards of the industry.

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Our Products include:

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- Uniform Sands
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- Screened Topsoil
- Super Green
- Uniform Sands
- Playing Field Sand
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- Grit - 4mm – 6mm
- Top Dressing (Dried)
- Divot Mix
- Rootzone Mix
- Uniform Sands
- Playing Field Sand
- Grit - 2mm – 4mm
- Grit - 4mm – 6mm
- Top Dressing (Dried)
- Divot Mix
- Rootzone Mix
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- Playing Field Sand
- Grit - 2mm – 4mm
- Grit - 4mm – 6mm

Contact Details:

Tel: 01344 621664
E-mail: info@lovie.co.uk
www.lovie.info
LOVIE QUARRIE & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Lovie Quarry & Concrete Products, a family-owned company with a total commitment to quality and service, has, since 1990, been developing and perfecting a range of specialist products for use in the construction and maintenance of sports fields and golf courses.

Major capital investment in plant and machinery ensures that specially selected materials from our own quarries are processed to meet the very demanding standards of the industry.

Constant monitoring in our on-site laboratory as well as regular testing at the one and only USA-GA approved testing facility in Europe, ensures the consistent quality and composition of the product.

Why Choose Lovie Specialist Sands?
- Rigorous production standards to meet the demands of USGA guidelines.
- Constant monitoring of quality.
- Extensive deposits of raw materials to ensure long-term supply of the products.
- Dried and heat treated top dressing and sands compatible with the rootzone.
- One and only USGA-approved testing facility.
- Laboratory as well as regular testing at the industry.
- Major capital investment in plant and machinery ensures that specially selected materials from our own quarries are processed to meet the very demanding standards of the industry.

Materials from our own quarries are processed to meet the very demanding standards of the industry.

Products include:
- Dried and heat treated top dressing and sands compatible with the rootzone.
- Sands and gravels in any size.
- Grimel, 40mm thick.
- Typical ground laying frame.
- Small or big roll free of big roll laying frame.
- Bunker revetting turf 40mm thick.
- Bunker revetting turf 40mm thick small or big roll.
- Drainage Stone - 10mm, 14mm, 20mm & 40mm.
- Cell - 4mm – 6mm.
- Cell - 6mm – 4mm.
- Playing Field Sand.
- Uniforms Sands.
- Rootzone Mix.
- Divot Mix.
- Top Dressing (Dried).
- Uniforms Sands (Dried).
- Screened Topsoil.
- Super Green.
- Grit - 2mm – 4mm.
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Be BIGGA's number one

How you can enter the BIGGA National Championship, kindly sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at Liphook Golf Club, Hampshire on 6-7 October. You can win £500 worth of vouchers.

Hotels nearby include Champneys Forest Mere, Old Thorns Manor Hotel, The Georgian House Hotel.

Fill in the form below to book your spot...

BIGGA National Championship 2014, Liphook Golf Club, October 6-7 • Entry Form

Please select the relevant category:
- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

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

Payment method (please tick)
- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value £90
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £90

- Card number
- Start Date
- Expiry Date
- Last 3 security digits
- Issue No. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature

Note: If paying by debit/credit card you will need to quote your three last digits from the card.

Deadline for entry is 5th September 2014.

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

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

There will be prizes for the first five over 36 holes in the gross category. The top three in the nett competition will also receive prizes. After each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. There will also be various nearest the pin and longest drive competitions, featuring prizes.
Recruitment
Advertise your recruitment here ... and online for one month
at www.bigga.org.uk/careers from £595+vat for an 1/8 advert
Contact Jill Rodham on 01347 833 812

CHIPPING SODBURY GC
MECHANIC / GREENKEEPER
Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, situated 12 miles North East of Bristol, is looking for either a part time mechanic (20 hours/week) or a full time Mechanic / Greenkeeper (40 hours/week)
The role is primarily to maintain and service the greenskeeping equipment & machinery for regular use on the course and to advise the Head Greenkeeper of any Health & Safety issues regarding machines. The role will include planning and implementing a rolling maintenance programme for the machinery based around the requirements of their use. The role will also require experience of using grinding machinery such as: Bernardi Express Dual 3000 and Anglemaster 1000.
The candidate would ideally be computer literate, conscientious in the regulations and build a current First Aid certificate but this is not essential.
The full time position will include some greenskeeping duties, especially during preparation for major tournaments, so some interest and basic knowledge of greenskeeping would be advantageous.
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

Assistant Greenkeeper
Moor Park Golf Club
Moor Park Golf Club is looking to recruit an Assistant Greenkeeper to join our current staff to assist in maintaining our 18 Hole Championship Courses to the highest standard.
The candidate should preferably have:
• NVQ Level 2 or equivalent
• PA1, PA2A and PA6
• Ability to work individually and as part of a team
• Salary negotiable dependant on experience
Applications including CV should be sent to:
Stuart Herttem, Moor Park Golf Club, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1QN
Email: enquiries@moorparkgc.co.uk

Widely considered to be one of the finest golfing venues in the South West of England, Bowood is an 18 hole championship golf course set amongst a beautiful parkland landscape. The club provides top class facilities for members, visitors and high profile classic events, as well as hosting regional professional events.
We are looking to recruit a greenkeeper to join our established team, on a full time basis. The successful candidate will be required to work closely with the Head Greenkeeper, and be willing to work flexibly within a team and the ability to recognise and achieve high standards of golf course presentation all time.
Salary will be negotiable in accordance with relevant qualifications and skills and will be based on a number of factors:
Closing date: Friday 29th August 2014
Please apply via email or post to include both a cover letter and CV to: recruitment@bowood.org
Head Greenkeeper, Bowood Hotel Spas & Golf Resort, Derry Hill, Calne, Wiltshire SN11 9PY

The Worcsershire Golf Club
In Malvern wishes to appoint a COURSE MANAGER
The Club is looking to employ an enthusiastic, experienced, hands-on Course Manager
• Qualified to NVQ level 4 or equivalent
• Chainsaw and spraying certificates
• Highly motivated with a good eye for detail
• IT proficient with proven track record
Email your application and CV to Richard Sibbick at: careers@theworcsershiregolfclub.co.uk
Closing date for applications: 31st August 2014

Newquay Golf Club
Newquay Golf Club is an 18 hole private members club situated at Combesgate. Founded in 1890 this Harry Colt designed layout is situated along the world famous Fistral Beach and puts 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 agronomy qualifications. Previous experience as a Head Greenkeeper is desirable.
A more detailed job specification can be found on www.chippingsodburygolfclub.co.uk
Closing date for applications: 30th August 2014

@BIGGALtd
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 fab 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!

@Sammy3334 @BIGGALtd Big time being part of the Support Team! Met some great people & breathtaking landscapes & 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

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

@LickeyHillsGolf It was a great pleasure to welcome our course architect @jacknicklaus at LGC today @TheOpen @Golf

@the_iog #SALTEX2014 ‘comes alive’ with turf-specific debates for this and much more all free register

@stannesgreens @niknak220 @NEBIGGA section lads at Hoylake @martinwoods50 Open selfie with Harvey Brooke, Sam Evans and Jack Hetherington!

Jack Nicklaus @LondonGolfClub @sandra48077948 Tel: 01256 461591 www.baronessuk.com

INTRODUCING THE BARONESS LM2400............
Low centre of gravity
The finest reel and bedknife produced in the industry
Light weight (less than 1300kg) combined with outstanding cutting power
Low ground pressure/high traction four-wheel drive

LIGHTWEIGHT FAIRWAY MOWER
LM Series
Kyoeisha UK Ltd. a subsidiary of Kyoeisha Co. Ltd. of Japan
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@Clanky23
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@Sammy3334
@BIGGALtd Brilliant time being part of #TheOpen Support Team! Met some great people! #networking #contacts #banter #experience

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

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Kyoeisha UK Ltd. a subsidiary of Kyoeisha Co. Ltd. of Japan

Tel: 01256 461591

www.baronessuk.com
When it comes to finding just the right sprayer for your own, individual needs, the Toro Multi Pro family offers you the widest choice of products for that perfect marriage between man and machine. So to give your turf all the love and care it needs to look and play its best, select from one of three Toro Multi Pro sprayers all offering the ultimate in spray accuracy, productivity and performance – from the lightweight 2WD 1750 model with its 175-gallon tank, and larger 4WD 5800-D unit with a 300-gallon capacity, to the 200-gallon WM version that marries a sprayer attachment with Toro’s popular Workman HD and HDX utility vehicles. The Toro Multi Pro – one of the family.

Full details at www.toro.com/multipro

Put us to the test. For your own, free, onsite demonstration call Lely on 01480 226800

Workman-mounted Multi Pro WM option
- 200-gallon tank
- Easily installed or removed from vehicle
- 6 diaphragm pump
- Elliptical tank
- QuickFind™ Sprayer Control Console

Lely. Your partners in turfcare. Call 01480 226800.

Lely not only brings you Toro. Talk to us, too, about TYM compact tractors and Otterbine water management systems.