Olympic dream
Preparing a golf course for the Youth Olympics ahead of Rio 2016

Inside...

BTME PREVIEW
10-page preview of the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

THE OPEN 2015
Apply for a place on the BIGGA Support Team

ALSO INSIDE... BERNHARD DELEGATES : STAN KOSTKA
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KING OF THE CASTLE

Nestled on a seaside perch in the Scottish Highlands, Castle Stuart Golf Links is a truly extraordinary golf destination. Home of the 2011, 2012 Scottish Open, the course is one of the Top 100 Courses in the World list.

It’s no surprise that Castle Stuart uses the Jacobsen ECLIPSE 322 on its greens. Because when you’re Scottish golf royalty, only the best turf equipment will do.

For more information about Jacobsen products, visit www.jacobsen.com.

Customer service focus

I’ve had the opportunity to attend a number of golf club manager and owner related events recently and there is no doubt that the tough times the industry is facing have begun to focus golf club managers’ minds on what is really important to their business.

The decline in golfer numbers has meant that clubs are competing for customers as never before. In recent years golf clubs have often, perhaps erroneously, chosen to use price as their differentiating factor but increasingly now facilities are placing emphasis on the two other key aspects of golfer enjoyment – golf course condition and customer service. The Syngenta player survey, amongst others, clearly showed the importance that golfers place on the condition of the course. But we must not lose sight of the fact that golf is a leisure experience and the quality of service the golfer receives throughout his or her time at the golf club is hugely important.

Customer service is managing expectations and this means that our members must be skilled in communicating to their employers and customers the rationale behind their decisions. Effective communication is the key to success in any business and it has become one of the most important skills a greenkeeper must possess.

As we approach Continue to Learn at BTME, I am delighted to see so many of the management skills workshops doing well. This suggests we will improve on the nearly 3,000 individual learning experiences that took place during BTME 2014.

Not all development is achieved in a classroom and I am pleased we deliver a first-class range of member experiences that provide networking and exposure to different environments.

In this edition we preview the BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhard & Company to the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, Texas. The interview process was inspiring, it was a privilege to spend time with 20 educated and passionate members and I know the successful Delegates will represent British greenkeeping, the Association and their employers with great distinction. The Delegation is a once in a lifetime experience and has proved to be instrumental in many former Delegates’ career progression.

Also in this magazine is the application form for the BIGGA Open Championship Support Team for 2015. The Open returns to St Andrews next year, and the Home of Golf always produces a special Championship. The R&A have again asked us to provide a Support Team, and this represents both a fantastic insight into tournament preparation and an excellent networking event.

Merry Christmas and a very successful and prosperous New Year.

Enjoy the read.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO
A look at what’s inside the magazine this month

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British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited
One of the highlights for me in a very busy November was the South West & South Wales Regional Conference at Somerset County Cricket Club. I was delighted to see 140 BIGGA members turn up for a memorable day of networking, education and general enjoyment of each other’s company. It was particularly fascinating to hear James Braithwaite from Long Ashton Golf Club talk about his team’s work on the course – a huge project involving replacing clay-based greens with free-draining ones. Greenkeepers always enjoy hearing stories from fellow greenkeepers, and this was an excellent example.

Craig Campbell, Groundsman from the Millennium Stadium, also gave a particularly informative presentation on how their facility has been improved by the installation of a Desso pitch. Thank you to all who attended, and to South West & South Wales Regional Administrator Tracey Harvey who did a great job in choosing an excellent new venue and organising the whole day.

Don’t forget that three Regional Conferences remain. The Midland Regional Conference on 25 February at Stonebridge Golf Club, the Scottish Regional Conference on 3 March at Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline and the Northern Regional Conference on 11 March at Chester le Street Golf Club. Please support these events if you can, a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes planning them.

Later in the month my partner Pat and I were guests of the GCSAI in Dublin for their conference, which attracted around 200 delegates. It was held at the superb Croke Park, which we were given a tour of, and included a wide range of educational presentations from the likes of Steve Chappell from Gleneagles and Dougie Robertson, Head Groundsman from West Ham United.

Everything about the two days we spent there was first-class and I really want to thank everyone at the GCSAI, particularly their president Michael McFeely, for making us so welcome. They were so hospitable and it was a pleasure for us to attend. Our relationship with GCSAI is excellent and we hope to work together with them closely in future.

By the time you read these notes the IOG Awards will have taken place, featuring three new greenkeeping categories. It’s fantastic to see greenkeeping directly acknowledged. Well done to all the nominees, and of course the three winners. Things are really shaping up now for BTME 2015, and I’m happy to see Ransomes Jacobsen, Toro and John Deere have agreed to exhibit. We’ve had several very positive and informative discussions with many exhibitors behind the scenes, and the Board of Management and the Association as a whole remain fully committed to ensuring the best experience for all exhibitors. Without their support, BTME would cease to exist and I’d like to place on record my gratitude to each and every one of them. Hopefully I’ll be able to catch up with many of them in the Halls in January.

As I’ve written in previous months, the Board of Management has put an awful lot of hard work into the Constitution and Governance review. Feedback is coming in, and it’s now at the stage where it’s being fine-tuned. There will be further updates soon.

Here at Chippenham, the weather remains mild and we’re still cutting greens two or three times a week, cutting the rough when we can and also cutting fairways when conditions allow. We did suffer from a nasty spot of Fusarium which we’ve sprayed to keep under control – you can see when you walk round the course there’s lots of fungal activity so we’re working hard to keep on top of that.

I’m pleased with the course, it’s looking good and plenty of golf is still being played which is great to see. I’d like to end by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 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.
November saw the South Coast Section hold a very successful AGM at Remedy Oak Golf Club, which was extremely well attended. Course Manager Rob Hogarth gave everyone an in depth talk about all the changes the greenkeepers have carried out this year including the reconstruction of the putting surfaces. Thanks to all at Remedy Oak, all the attendees, David Snowden from Agronomic Services who again lent his support and John Pike from Toro who took some superb images of the day left. Look out for a feature on Rob and the team’s work in conjunction with Agronomic Services soon in GI.

The latest news from around the globe

PERFECT REMEDY ON THE SOUTH COAST

Sussex have triumphed in this year’s Tri Match between Sussex, Essex and Surrey.

This year’s match took place at Crawborough Beacon Golf Club which, despite 24mm of rain the day before the tournament, was presented impeccably by Mike Poole and his team. Holders Essex were beaten into second place by Sussex who regained the trophy having lost it to Essex in the previous year. Pictured are the winning Sussex team with sponsors David Bush from Ernest Doe and Michael Fance from Everris.

AFILIATE MEMBER HITS THE HEIGHTS

BGGA Affiliate member Titus Asuna is celebrating after scaling the heights by climbing 214 peaks in the North of England.

Titus, who works for Ruby Taylor, has made it up all of the peaks which are collectively known as the Wainwrights. He’s battled sleet, snow and heavy rain and managed to celebrate his impressive feat at the top of Helm Crag with a beer. Titus said: “I climbed Scafell Pike about 20 years ago, and after climbing a couple more I decided to attempt to scale all of them.

“The toughest weather was on Raise and Whiteside where I was caught in a white out, you couldn’t see more than a few feet, the sleet and snow was horizontal.

“The hardest climb was probably the last which for me was Helm Crag. It’s only a little fell but on the top is a rock called the Howitzer, this is the true summit of Helm Crag and it was quite a scramble to get to the top as it was very slippery. It was a fantastic feeling to have completed and I celebrated with a bottle of my favourite Lakeside tipple called Langdale.

“Climbing all the Wainwrights is without a shadow of doubt one of the best things I have done in my life, it takes you all around the Lake District and I would highly recommend it to anyone.”

SUSSEX WIN TRI MATCH

An opportunity to see the wares offered by specialist turf care equipment distributor Campey Turfcare in action was very well received by BGGA South West Section members recently with a strong turnout despite inclement weather.

The afternoon’s activities offered welcome respite from the rain with BGGA Vice Chairman Len Howards MG hosting a seminar titled ‘Budgeting for the Modern Golf Course’. Len gave the audience a fine insight into the intricacies of budget creation and management with useful tips being offered to everyone from highly experienced management to the up and coming leaders of the future.

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USA TRAINEES EARN AND LEARN

Emily Baines, the Global Work Placement Coordinator for IEPUK, has recently returned from a visit to the USA where she was able to meet Adam, Ben and Kevan – three turf management trainees currently on paid work placements in the USA. Working with partners in America, IEPUK can offer training opportunities to individuals from the UK.

Emily said: “Our paid placements allow UK trainees, like Adam, Ben and Kevan, to experience a new culture, and enhance their knowledge within the turf management industry.

“Trainees receive hands-on training in turf and golf course management. These placements are a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience working in the USA with the latest technology and state of the art equipment. It was great for me to visit the golf courses our trainees work on, they really are out of this world.”

For more details about the programme criteria and the opportunity to “earn whilst you learn” on a paid work experience placement with IEPUK, contact Emily on 03 572 783934 or email emily@iepuk.co.uk.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE SUCCESS

The annual Regional Conference for South West and South Wales took place on 19 November at Somerset County Cricket Club. The event was very well supported by members, reaching an impressive total of 140.

Presenters included James Brathwaite from Long Ashton GC, Craig Campfield from the Millennium Stadium, Henry Bechelet from Events, Queenwood’s Cameron McMillan and David Longham MG from Wembledon Park. All presentations were well received and each ended with a Q&A session.

Members also had the opportunity to view the Cricket Ground with the Deputy Groundsman, Rob Hake. A big thanks to Rob for taking on so many greenkeepers.

The day wouldn’t have been possible without the help of our Region’s patrons – a big thank you to them.

There was a great buzz during the day with lots of members commenting on the new venue, and feedback from the day has been very positive! Regional Chairman Rob Hogarth said: “The Somerset County Cricket ground in Taunton is a new venue for us. It turned out to be an excellent choice and no doubt one we will continue to use going forward.

“Thanks must go out to Tracey Harvey for her excellent organisation of the event and to the speakers and patrons for their continued support. The selection of speakers in particular was tremendous as they were from all walks of the turf industry.

“With this sort of attendance and a fantastic sporting venue I am sure the future of our regional conference is extremely bright.”

SUSSEX WIN TRI MATCH

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This year’s match took place at Crawborough Beacon Golf Club which, despite 24mm of rain the day before the tournament, was presented impeccably by Mike Poole and his team. Holders Essex were beaten into second place by Sussex who regained the trophy having lost it to Essex in the previous year. Pictured are the winning Sussex team with sponsors David Bush from Ernest Doe and Michael Fance from Everris.

CAMPEY CHIP IN

The latest news from around the globe
NEW MIDLAND SECTION CHAIRMAN

There’s plenty to report currently in the Midland Section with a new Chairman and Vice Chairman in place. New Chairman is Matt Nutter, Course Manager at East Berkshire Golf Club. Matt, right, said: “I am absolutely delighted and honoured to be the Midland Regional Chairman for BIGGA. At a time when our Association is going from strength to within the industry, I intend to work on behalf of the membership to ensure that we continue to learn and develop as a region.”

The greenkeeping industry was saddened to hear of the passing of John Robertson, former Head Greenkeeper at Hawkhurst Golf Club in Kent, at the age of 65. John joined the nine-hole club in 1966, two years before it opened, and was heavily involved in its construction. His dedication to the course was such that he could often be spotted on his hands and knees weeding the greens which was his pride and joy.

The unusually hot and dry summer of 1976 proved no obstacle to Rex, as he used to go out on the course after morning and hand water each green with a watering can.

He retired in 1999 and the club honoured him with a special testimonial competition. His son Phil followed him into greenkeeping and is currently Head Greenkeeper at the prestigious, Ganton Golf Club in North Yorkshire. Phil said: “Dad taught me the value of hard work and achieved results with few resources. He was and will remain one of my greatest heroes as well as being a great father and friend - one of the last of a dying breed.”

One of Phil’s many heroes, John Millen, BIGGA Life Mentor and Assistant Chairman in 1994, said: “I was a young Head Greenkeeper at West Malling Golf Club in the Eighties and I needed a mentor. Rex was at Hawkhurst, quite close by, and he became that mentor.”

“He was always available to go for a drink, a quietly spoken man but very knowledgeable, and he inspired everyone I came into contact with. He was a friend, a gentleman, and what I would call one of the unsung heroes of greenkeeping.”

STRI GOLF ENVIRONMENT AWARD FINALISTS REVEALED

STRI, the specialist consultancy for golf course design, development and ecology, has announced the 12 finalists of the 2015 Golf Environment Awards.

The Awards highlight effective and sustainable projects being managed by individual golf courses across the UK and reward the individuals that are making real improvements to their local and wider environment.

The 2015 awards continue with the new format introduced last year, with three winning categories: Environmental Golf Course of the Year; Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year and Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year.

The 2015 finalists are:

- Environmental Golf Course of the Year
  - Royal St David’s Golf Club
  - Carnoustie Golf Links
  - Lee Park Golf Club
  - Hardley Common Golf Club
  - John Kelly - Royal Birkdale Golf Club
  - Paul Mills - Penn Golf Club
  - Stephen Thompson - John O’Gan County Club

- Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year
  - Stephen Clark - Spalding Golf Club

- Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year
  - Hockley Golf Club
  - St Andrews Links - Castle Course
  - Royal Jersey Golf Club
  - Prestbury Golf Club

The winners of the three coveted awards will be revealed at an awards dinner ceremony on the evening of Wednesday 21 January 2015 at the Hotel du Vin in Harrogate during BTME 2015, and will each receive the trip of a lifetime to Europe with the chance to visit some of the world’s leading golf facilities and sites of specific ecological interest.

The awards are sponsored by the following companies which are committed to supporting and promoting proven sustainable projects within golf clubs.

All this year’s finalists have shown an impressive level of commitment and energy in delivering first class courses whilst successfully enhancing their local environment at the same time.”

GI NEWSDESK

New Appointment

Syngenta has appointed Master Greenkeeper Daniel Lightfoot as the company’s new Business Manager for Turf, Vegetation & Pest Management.

Dan brings a vast wealth of practical experience, technical knowledge and communication skills to the role, in supporting greenkeepers, sports turf managers and golf business operators to get the best from Syngenta’s innovative S＆ product range.

Dan joins Syngenta from Brickwood Lakes Golf Club in Berkshire, where he has been managing the consistently highly-rated private members’ course for the past 10 years including a complete redesign and renovation across all 18 holes.

During that time he achieved the prestigious recognition of Master Greenkeeper awarded by BIGGA, along with holding an MSc in Sports Surface Technology at Cranfield University. Dan also attended the Canadian Syngenta Super U golf course manager development programme, held at the Richard Ivey School of Business, Toronto and is a Class A Superintendent with GCSAA.

Previously he has held roles as Head Greenkeeper at Gatton Manor Golf and Country Club and Head Greenkeeper at The Hermitage Golf Club and Country Club.

Many greenkeepers throughout the industry have already benefitted from Dan’s education role, including as a lecturer in Turf Grass Science at Merrist Wood College in Surrey as well as a regular participant in seminars at BTME and turf management presentations across the country.

GI NEWSDESK

WARM TRIBUTES TO JOHN ROBERTSON

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Membership News - the section which updates you on the countless benefits of being a BIGGA member. We’re on hand to help.

You can contact BIGGA House, our Regional Offices, our Personal Accident Helpline, Legal Assistance and our Lifestyle Counselling Helpline. You can also save money with our BIGGA Xtra Benefits scheme. More information can be found in the Members’ Area of the BIGGA website.

Contact Details
Tracy Maddison General Manager traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk
Elaine Jones Membership Executive elaine@bigga.co.uk
Rachael Duffy Events & Membership Executive rachael@bigga.co.uk

BTME Stand B23

Don’t forget that among all the exhibitors at BTME 2015, BIGGA have a stand where you can find everything about the Association – B23.

You can update your contact details with us, and also provide us with a new membership photograph – the team will be on hand with their iPhones to take snaps!

It’s also a great way for you to meet the team from BIGGA House and discuss everything about BIGGA. You can discover all the benefits that BIGGA membership offers, learn more about our volunteering opportunities, our Sections and Regions and chat to our Regional Administrators.

You can also find out everything about Learning & Development. Discover how you can apply for Level 3 Scholarships, Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and more about the CPD scheme. You will even be able to claim CPD credits on the stand – if you’re not sure of the process, a member of our L&D team will be on hand to guide you through it.

See you in January!

PRE REGISTER AND AVOID THE QUEUES

Don’t forget to pre-register for BTME 2015! This helps you avoid the queues at the Harrogate International Centre and ensures you get the most out of your visit to BTME.

Simply visit our dedicated BTME site at www.btme.org.uk and click on ‘Register Now’. Remember entry is completely free.

BIGGA AGM AT BTME

The Association’s Annual General Meeting will be held in the Queen’s Suite of the Harrogate International Centre at 5.15pm on Wednesday 21 January 2015.

The AGM is open to all BIGGA Members, however only Full Members are entitled to vote. A current membership card MUST be produced to gain entry. Access to the AGM is either from the escalator link between Halls B & C or from the escalator link in HIC Entrance 3 (Springfield House). Follow signs for the Queen’s Suite.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

You can find the latest news from BIGGA Scotland & N. Ireland John Young 07776 242120 johnyoung@bigga.co.uk
Northern Sandra Raper 07866 366966 sandra@bigga.co.uk @sandra4bigganor
Midland Roger Butler 07525 593 359 roger@bigga.co.uk
South east Clive Osgood 01737 819343 07841 948410 cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk @cliveosgood
South West & South Wales Tracey Harvey 07841 948110 tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

BIGGA PRESENTS BTME 2015 INCORPORATING CONTINUE TO LEARN AT THE HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE CONTINUE TO LEARN 18-21 JANUARY 2015 TURF MANAGERS CONFERENCE 19 JANUARY 2015 BTME 20-22 JANUARY 2015

OVER 100 EXHIBITORS FROM ACROSS THE INDUSTRY

PLUS THE TURF MANAGERS CONFERENCE, SPECIAL GUESTS AND MORE
Another fantastic educational opportunity is on offer for BIGGA members with applications open for the Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI) 2015 made possible by Jacobsen.

Twenty delegates will again be selected to attend Jacobsen’s Ipswich headquarters for an intense three days of first-class education, and to mentor and educate the next generation of industry leaders. FTMI 2015 will take place on 24-26 March 2015, and includes:

- Volunteering
- CV Writing and Interview Techniques
- Leadership
- Budgeting
- Practical point of view – and some extra places are now available due to the change of venue.

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- Volunteering
- CV Writing and Interview Techniques
- Leadership
- Budgeting
- Practical point of view

The ideal candidate will show initiative, dedication to greenkeeping, a genuine interest in the industry and be actively involved in education at both a regional and a national level. Kevin Glader, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, attended FTMI 2014 and said: “It’s an intense few days but a fantastic opportunity! To speak to the other delegates and the mentors was fascinating as you can discuss aspects of greenkeeping you wouldn’t normally discuss.”

“The FTMI really made me focus on my greenkeeping goal – to become a Course Manager. It was an honour to be selected and something I would strongly recommend applying for.”

If you require any further information, please email sami@bigga.co.uk

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**CONTINUE TO LEARN UPDATE**

Books are flooding in for BIGGA’s Continue to Learn education programme which is the most comprehensive ever held at BTME – and some sessions are already sold out.

Workshop bookings are 24% up on the same stage last year and seminars are up 43% - several of which are already sold out. One seminar has even had to move from the Harrogate International Centre to The Crown Hotel due to overwhelming demand.

BIGGA’s largest ever educational programme opened for bookings last month, we’ve accepted reservations from hundreds of greenkeepers at various stages of their career, from a huge variety of facilities across the UK, Europe… and even Australia!

Sami Strutt, BIGGA’s Head of Member Development, said: “There really is something for everybody at Continue to Learn – whether you’re a Course Manager or you’re just starting out in your career, and we’re very pleased at how bookings are progressing.”

“It did urge anyone thinking of booking a place to contact us as soon as possible as there are only a handful left on many of our workshops, seminars and focus on sessions. Don’t forget there are also plenty of free to attend seminars.”

The ‘Basic Geomachines’ and ‘Irrigation Design System and Auditing’ workshops on Monday 19 January are sold out, as is the ‘Woodland and Habitat Management’ on the Tuesday.

One of the most popular events so far is ‘The Dr and the Super: The Art and Science of Golf Course Management’, which had to be moved to The Crown Hotel due to overwhelming demand. This will be presented by Dr Brian Horgan (right), Professor at the University of Minnesota, and Chris Tritabaugh, Golf Course Superintendent at Hazeltine National, host of the 2016 Ryder Cup. They will be discussing Dr Horgan is also presenting a brand new workshop called ‘Top 5 (+1) Fertility Topics’ where he discusses soil fertility and plant nutrition, and the BCSIR, MLSN and Sufficiency’ seminar which covers the most commonly used soil testing philosophies. He’s taught soil fertility and plant nutrition worldwide and is sure to present some fascinating ideas.

Continue to Learn covers everything you could possibly need to equip yourself for success in your career including mechanics, budgeting, people management, managing conflict, grass identification, health and safety and much more.

The Turf Managers’ Conference offers a fantastic range of education across one day – covering customer service, water management and precision organic matter management to name just three topics! To book your places, and also pre-register for BTME 2015, visit www.btica.org.uk. Continue to Learn runs from 18-21 January, including the Turf Managers’ Conference on 19 January, and BTME is from 20-22 January.
Ever greening the golf course

This month Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the role of evergreen trees on UK golf courses and how they can best be utilised.
Trees are crucially important components of playable and pleasurable golf courses although the ability to establish and sustain particular tree species can be affected by local conditions including elevation, exposure to wind, extreme winter conditions and soil profile. That said there is always something in the tree nursery to satisfy the needs of most golf course conditions.

Evergreen trees in all shapes and sizes are well represented on UK golf courses despite the limited number of British native trees falling into this category. There are only three native British conifers – English yew (Taxus baccata, common juniper (Juniperus communis) and Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris) with ‘purists’ dismissing the latter as being a native in all but the Caledonian Forest in the Scottish Highlands. Apart from these three ‘Gymnosperms’ (trees bearing naked seeds not inside an ovary) there is only a handful of the native ‘Angiosperm’ tree species (flowering trees with seeds inside an ovary) that are evergreen. In shape, size and form most of these broadleaved trees are better described as shrubs. However, this article considers a ‘tree’ to be plant which undergoes secondary thickening to increase stem girth and rigidity through the production of woody tissue and therefore does not differentiate between trees and shrubs.

This group of evergreen native ‘Angiosperma’ includes English holly (Ilex aquifolium), wild privet (Ligustrum vulgare), goose or haur (Ulex europaeus) and broom (Cytisus scoparius). Add to these the strawberry tree (Arbutus unedo) which is of these islands but has a highly restricted native range in the southwestern corner of Ireland. Evergreens and greens Evergreen conifers provide excellent backdrops to golf greens and will not undermine the ground in autumn.

There is a handful of conifers which are deciduous and therefore buck the evergreen conifer trend by dropping all of their leaves at the same time over the autumn-winter period. Among the very few deciduous conifers likely to be found on golf courses in the UK are several species of Larix (larch) together with Gingko (the maiden-hair tree), which is a Gymnosperm but not strictly speaking a conifer.

Evergreens would appear to tick most boxes as far as aesthetics and convenience is concerned with the main benefits being green canopies all year round and no fallen leaves to clear away in autumn. However, unless these evergreen trees, and especially those which produce tall and broad canopies are sited and situated with due care and consideration, then ever-greening the golf course may prove to be a double-edged sword.

The classic definition of an evergreen (a tree which does not lose all of its leaves in autumn) is misleading. Evergreen trees lose their leaves little by little but since they are producing new ones at the same time the canopy maintains a full complement of leaves throughout the year.

There is a handful of conifers which are deciduous and which therefore buck the evergreen conifer trend by dropping all of their leaves at the same time over the autumn-winter period. Among the very few deciduous conifers likely to be found on golf courses in the UK are several species of Larix (larch) together with Gingko (the maiden-hair tree), which is a Gymnosperm but not strictly speaking a conifer.

Evergreens and greens Evergreen conifers provide excellent backdrops to golf greens and will not undermine the ground in autumn. Naturalised means they are self-perpetuating via seed or vegetative means (e.g. root suckers) and without our intervention. Included in this category are holm oak (Quercus ilex), cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus), Portugal laurel (Prunus lusitanica), Rhododendron x superponticum and butcher’s broom (Ruscus aculeatus). Trees are evergreen is a tree which does not lose all of its leaves in autumn but since they are producing new ones at the same time the canopy maintains a full complement of leaves throughout the year.
Evergreen trees

the same way that broadleaf deciduous trees like oaks can do. This is because their root systems are superficially shallow and limited in area unlike the deep and extensive root systems of deciduous broadleaf trees like English oak. In addition evergreen conifers generally do not produce root suckers as do many broadleaf deciduous trees, notably poplars and false acacias.

Root suckers from these trees can spring up many metres from where the tree stands which means new trees can actually spring up from roots growing under the turf, even through the poplar or other broadleaf deciduous tree was planted a good distance from the green.

That said, evergreen trees planted so close to greens that the mature canopy shades across the surface of the grass can cause all sorts of turf quality and management problems.

The absence of full sunlight falling on the turf during large parts of the year round too leaves the grass in deep shade and perpetually wet. The consequence is inhibition of grass growth and conditions which encourage diseases like Fusarium patch as well as promoting invasion and infestation by bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) plus algae and lichens. Evergreen trees flanking and to the rear of greens provide a positive backdrop provided they are planted sufficiently far away so that no shading occurs even when fully grown.

Root suckers like species such as gone are perhaps a better choice in this respect and especially on hilly land, moorland courses where they are part and parcel of the natural vegetation. But gone is surprisingly popular in places where you would not expect to find it, including courses in London and the Home Counties where the sharp spiny leaves add a distinct edge to play. Indeed a thick impenetrable gone bush is not best place to lose your ball.

Britain’s largest non-conifer native evergreen tree is English holly. Holly exists mostly as a woodland understorey shrub or as hedgerow tree the vast majority of which have been polluted. Whether English holly is inside woodland or as a hedgerow the natural and unique pyramidal shaped canopy of the mature tree is rarely seen. Holly trees planted on golf courses as stand-alone specimens and left to grow naturally will often represent one of the few situations where the true natural canopy shape of fex aquifolium can be appreciated.

Evergreens as screens

Evergreen trees can be used to provide excellent natural visual and aural screens with exceptionally fast growing conifers being the obvious choices. Leylandii cypress with its ability to put on a metre of extension growth every year for around 15 years and to generate the thickest of evergreen tree canopies is the most popular choice for golf courses.

Many of our older golf courses were constructed near to railways for ease of access before widespread car ownership, but these same railway canopies is the most popular choice for golf courses.

Some five years ago the management planted a line of Leylandii cypress near to the railway, covering the entire length of the railway and all its accompanying movement and noise.

I recently revisited the site after a three year gap to find that the once small newly-planted Leylandii saplings had already grown and developed into an attractive and effective natural screen some 3-4m tall.

These trees were clearly planted to screen out visuals, noise and dust from the railway but will almost certainly have another important but perhaps not immediately obvious additional benefit. The trees which flank this railway traditionally suffer invasion with a rather unusual weed. Ragwort is a notorious invasive weed with widespread and heavy infestations on railway embankments throughout most of the UK but the wild plant is not recognised or documented as a weed of sports turf.

The heavy ragwort seed load originating along the railway embankment apparently gains access to otherwise tight turf awards by exploiting divot damage areas on the trees as germination sites. This line of Leylandii cypress should effectively screen out airborne propagules and these of related species like sowthistle which have historically caused similar weed problems for these trees.

End of the line

Tees including most evergreens will generally outlive those who plant them but all will eventually come to the end of the line and therefore require felling. Mainly for reasons of safety - but also for tidiness - the tree stump should be removed at the same time, but stump removal using traditional stump grinding techniques can be a messy business. I have seen a novel piece of unobtrusive kit called R-Top used as an attachment to an excavator and which slowly but surely drills out the stump and lateral roots safely, quietly and neatly, leaving the debris in a neat pile which can easily be cleared away and used as mulch.
Ten for Texas

Meet the ten BIGGA members preparing to head to America as part of the annual BIGGA Delegation, courtesy of Bernhard Grinders

Congratulations to the ten delegates who have been selected to join the latest BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas, next February.

Many BIGGA members applied via an online application form, and a group were then interviewed by a panel from BIGGA and Bernhard Grinders before the final ten were selected.

GIS 2015 takes place between 21-26 February 2015 at the Henry B Gonzalez Convention Center. The group will help man the BIGGA Stand (Booth 5099) as well as viewing the various products and innovations on show.

They will also attend the GCSSA education conferences, which boasts a total of 84 seminars on everything from personal development to weather anomalies, bees and irrigation.

They will also have the chance to network with key international industry figures. It’s one of the industry’s most established and popular trips - many of the previous delegates describe it as one of the highlights of their career - and we again thank Bernhard for sponsoring the trip.

For more on GIS please visit www.golfindustryshow.com and follow them on Twitter @ GIS_2015. For more on Bernhard Grinders please visit www.bernhard.co.uk and follow them on Twitter @BernhardGrinder

BIGGA/Bernhard Delegates profiled

Kevin Armstrong – Head Greenkeeper, John O’Gaunt Golf Club
Kevin joined John O’Gaunt in 1995 as a trainee and has spent his entire career at the club. He has passed his work-based Level 3 Diploma, and has risen through the ranks to his current role. He has just taken on the role of Vice Chairman of the BIGGA Midland Section.

Steven Hulme – Head Greenkeeper, Murrayfield Golf Club
Steven started out as a trainee at Wortley Golf Club in 1987 and moved up through the ranks before joining Murrayfield and Raveston in 1998. He was later appointed Head Greenkeeper overseeing both clubs.

Richard McGlynn – Course Manager, Blumisberg Golf Club (Switzerland)
Richard studied Commercial Horticulture before he joined the greenskeeping industry, helping to construct a new course in Chessy. He accepted a position in Switzerland, then worked in Dubai, India, Russia and Oman before returning to Switzerland.

Leigh Powell – Assistant Golf Course Manager, Hockley Golf Club
Leigh began his career at Bearwood Lakes and spent 12 years there as a relief mechanic at the facility. He then joined Waterfordville as workshop manager, gaining further machinery experience, as well as furthering his greenskeeping expertise too. In January 2013 he moved to Hockley.

Lee Sayers – Course Manager, Mid Kent Golf Club
Lee started out at two clubs in Australia - Rangeview followed by Cottodown, before joining Royal Blackheath. He then spent four years at The London Golf Club before securing his first Head Greenkeeper role at Hemsted Forest Golf Club. He then returned to The London before joining Mid Kent Golf Club in 2003.

Sam Evans – Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Oakland Park Golf Club
Sam started out at Heythrop Park and studied for a degree in Sports Management and Coaching Studies. Following a brief spell away from the industry, he returned to Heythrop Park before joining Oakland Park last year. He then joined the Open Support team this year and is presenting ‘BIGGA – A Tool for Career Development’ at BTME 2015.

Miles Todd – Course Manager, Llandudno (Maesdu) Golf Club
Miles started out as a part-time greenskeeper at Rhuddlan Golf Club while he was studying his National Diploma at Northop College. He later became Deputy Course Manager at Rhuddlan and was a runner-up in the 2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. In 2013 he became Course Manager at Llandudno (Maesdu) and with his team has completed a series of improvements.

Graeme Roberts – Deputy Course Manager, Camberley Heath Golf Club
Graeme was first bitten by the greenskeeping bug as a seasonal greenskeeper at Hankley Common, working alongside his father. After completing his apprenticeship he joined The Ohio Program and worked at Pinehurst and Harbour Town, preparing for various tournaments as well as furthering his greenskeeping education. After a spell at Tandridge he joined Camberley Heath.

Simon Connah – Deputy Course Manager, St Andrews Links
Simon has spent his whole greenskeeping career at St Andrews, beginning as a seasonal worker on the Old and Jubilee courses in 1989. He has risen through the ranks and is currently Deputy Course Manager on the Old Course. He has extensive tournament experience including five Open Championships.

Sean Brocklehurst – Assistant Greenkeeper, Harpenden Common Golf Club
After completing his A levels Sean decided to follow his father and uncle into greenskeeping. His first role was at Brocket Hall Golf Club before joining Harpenden Common. He was a regional finalist for Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year in 2009 and was also a delegate on last year’s FTMI.

Congratulations to the ten BIGGA members preparing to head to America as part of the annual BIGGA Delegation, courtesy of Bernhard Grinders

Bernhard Delegation
There is currently much industry focus on golf rejoining the 2016 Olympics in Brazil, with many focusing on the construction and progress of the Gil Hanse designed Olympic course in Rio. However, this event won’t be the first time golf will have been be played as an Olympic sport since 1904.

That honour was given to the athletes of the 2nd Youth Olympic Games held in Nanjing, China, in August 2014 at the Nanjing Zhongshan International Golf Club. Australian-born, International Golf Course Project Manager/Superintendent Gavin Reid, was approached by the International Golf Federation (IGF) to consult and advise the Nanjing Zhongshan International Golf Club during the preparations for the Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

This appointment followed Gavin’s successful consulting role to the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship at Nanshan International Golf Club in Qingdao, China.

The IGF is recognised by the International Olympic Committee as the world governing body for golf and the YOG was a great showcase for the IGF and the return of golf to the Olympic movement.

After Nanjing hosted a test event in August 2013, substantial turf loss was experienced on many of its A1/A4 Bent Grass Greens, with some greens having as little as 20% turf coverage when the event was concluded.

This significant turf loss highlighted the need for additional

Olympic dream

How an Australian greenkeeper helped prepare a golf course for the Youth Olympic Games in China, ahead of the sport returning to the Olympics in 2016
Expertise to assist the Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (YOGOC) to prepare an international standard course that would withstand the rigors of an Olympic tournament.

Having successfully worked in various roles within China and other parts of Asia and the Middle East, YOGOC appointed Gavin to ensure the quality of the course and to minimise the previously experienced turf loss. Gavin’s experience and understanding was vital to ensure that YOGOC could successfully achieve a world-class course.

A significant challenge was the Nanjing climate and the August timing of the Games. Situated 300km west of Shanghai, Nanjing is known as one of the ‘inland ovens’ in China, with August being one of the hottest months of the year. With maximum temperatures expected to exceed 38°C, minimum temperatures expected to be a very good decision. Although we did not have any issues with significant heat in the summer heat, there were some issues with the water testing being conducted and Gavin spent time with the Superintendent to gain as much information as possible about the water testing process. We were able to effectively lead a team that had been previously implemented, and by sharing his views with the Superintendent, Gavin was able to effectively lead a team to work together in order to achieve the best outcome. Despite the challenges of language and culture, Gavin and the Superintendent were able to implement new practices.

With the Superintendent willing to change their thinking, I was able to put together an entirely new approach. This began with not doing the overwatering that was planned and adding in foliar fertilising, a growth control program through the entire summer period and a much improved watering agent regime.”

For Gavin and the team, the major focus for the greens programme was to have full grass cover with a smooth ball roll. Gavin explained: “I felt that if the focus was on the speed of greens we would face some serious problems through the event, and thisproved to be a very good decision. Although the course was the best presented and constant, the greens were single cut and rolled only each morning and only smooth rollers were used to reduce stress. Greens were single cut and rolled only each morning of the event, therefore moderate (9 feet) speeds were achieved without undue stress on the greens and ball roll was smooth and constant. Overall, the return of golf to the Games movement was a great success and the course looked great, performed well and withstood the demands of the event. Both the golfers and the various IOC officials who visited the course were impressed by its quality, and former IOC President Jacques Rogge even commented that he believed that the course was the best presented venue in the whole Games.

Every summer the club suffered turf loss on many greens, six greens in particular had extremely poor air movement so locally manufactured fans were installed. The fans provided the required additional air movement and reduced the ambient air temperature by up to four degrees when in use. They also allowed the greens to dry out much faster in the morning, which in turn reduced the disease pressure.

The club’s past fertilising practices were purely based on a granular only programme, additional trace elements were added within the renovation fertiliser following testing, however no PH adjustments were required. From early June a foliar liquid fertiliser programme was introduced to ensure the plant was receiving constant small amount of nutrients.

A 14 day rotation of liquid fertiliser began, in conjunction with an improved watering agent programme, preventative fungicides and a growth inhibitor programme which proved very successful. Also, the height of cut was raised to 3.6mm from early July through until the event. Dew was removed from greens prior to cutting each morning and only smooth rollers were used to reduce stress. Greens were single cut and rolled only each morning of the event, therefore moderate (9 feet) speeds were achieved without undue stress on the greens and ball roll was smooth and constant.

Gavin concluded: “I feel very privileged and proud to have been involved in the reintroduction of golf to the Olympic Games, working with the R&A, IGF, USGA and others was a great experience and the efforts of the entire team under the leadership of Antony Scallon from the IGF and Dominic Wall of the R&A (based in Hong Kong) was impressive.

“The tournament was not without its frustrations and interesting moments. For instance myself and the referee from the USGA had to push up washed out bunker sand and remove the standing water from the 18th fairway after a torrential downpour. We were unable to contact the standby maintenance staff so took matters into our own hands.

“I truly believe that the more professional like-minded people you are exposed to and the broader your networking (and friendships) are in this great industry, the greater your learning and exposure to new things is and therefore the more employable you are.”

About the author

Gavin Reid

As a second generation golfgreenman, Gavin lived on a golf course and green that had few name. He gained his first experience working for the USGA before going on to manage courses all over the UK and Europe, most notably the famous St Andrews. This led him to develop his own expertise in cutting and rolling greens, maintaining turf and managing a successful team of greenkeepers.
Lichens – solar powered survival

In his latest BASIS article, Graham Paul from Sherriff Amenity looks at lichens – what they are, how they are used and how they are controlled.

Lichens grow on a variety of plants and hard surfaces and sometimes need to be controlled or removed by those managing amenity areas. The subject is too complex to cover here in detail, so I will provide only a brief introduction.

Lichens are not single organisms but a partnership or association between a fungus, an alga and/or a cyanobacteria. The relationship between these different organisms is known as symbiosis, where all partners receive some form of benefit.

The fungal partner, referred to as the mycobiont, needs a supply of sugars and carbohydrates for energy and growth, which it is unable to manufacture and these are provided by single-celled green algae or in some cases by cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) – in a process called photosynthesis.

The algal species or cyanobacteria are referred to as the photobionts. In return for basic food, the fungus provides its photosynthetic partners with moisture, minerals, protection from the elements and physical support. The resulting conglomeration of these symbiotic partners that we call lichens are diverse and can be difficult to classify, as they contain two or more different organisms. The accepted strategy is to name lichens after the fungal partner.

The self-sufficiency of lichens allows them to grow in inhospitable places such as on bare rock and in extreme conditions; from arctic tundras to hot deserts, on rocky coasts battered by salt-laden winds and even on toxic slag heaps. They are also abundant on leaves and branches in woodland, on footpaths, walls and roofs of buildings.

In harsh environments they survive for a very long time; almost since dry land was first colonised from life in the sea. They have gained the self-sufficiency of lichens, a very long life-span. The study of these fascinating organisms is known as lichenology, a subject that has occupied lichenologists for thousands of years. Originally, lichens were thought to be autonomous organisms and it was not until 1867 that the Swiss botanist Simon Schwendener put forward his ‘thalassine’ theory, that their true nature began to emerge. His theory was based on observing specimens with a crude microscope and many of his peers rejected this postulation due to lack of conclusive experimental evidence. After many years of study, the final proof of Schwendener’s theory came in 1939 when Eugenie Thomas published the results of a laboratory experiment in which he artificially re-synthesised the lichen Cladonia pyxidata from its component mycobiont and photobiont parts.

Some 28,000 lichens have been discovered worldwide. The fungal species that form such associations are said to have been ‘lichenised’ and can be found in all of the fungal phyla. However, 98% of lichens are formed from associations with the ‘cup fungi’ (from the phylum Ascomycota), with members of the Basidiomycota accounting for most of the remaining 2%. The cup fungi are characterised by disk or cup-shaped structures called apothecia, often resembling ‘jam tarts’, which bear sacs (asci) containing ascospores produced by sexual reproduction.

In contrast to the large number of different fungi that have been found in lichens, these form associations with only a very small number of species of photobiont partners (approximately 105), which belong to just 30 genera. Two thirds are green algae and the remaining third are cyanobacteria.

These statistics are made much more complex by the fact that some lichens contain both green algae and cyanobacteria. It is estimated that unicellular green algae are found in 60% of all lichens, the most common being Trentepohlia spp., occurring in half of all lichen species. Approximately 30% of lichens contain the orange-pigmented green algae Trechoderma spp., whilst 10% contain cyanobacteria, half of which belong to the genus Nostoc.

Reproduction

Lichens reproduce asexually in several ways, the simplest being by fragmentation of the thallus, whereby small pieces break off the main body and grow to form new lichens. Some species produce small packages called ‘soredia’ composed of both the fungal mycelium and a few algal cells – when dispersed from the parent, these handy ‘lichen kits’ contain everything needed to grow a new individual. Soredia are usually grouped together in clusters known as ‘sorites’, which can be easily seen with a hand lens as a powdery texture on the upper surface of some lichens.

Sexual reproduction occurs only in the mycobiont partner and is slightly different in Basidiomycete lichens but since the majority are derived from Ascomycete fungi, I shall concentrate on these. The male and female gametes fuse to
form ascospores, which are contained in aecii stored in the cup or disk structures called apothecia. Once released the ascospores will germinate under suitable conditions and capture an algal cell (or cyanobacteria) to start the life cycle again. The shape and colour of these apothecia is varied and is useful in identification of the lichen.

There are several types of lichen growth forms that are also useful in identification:
- **Crustose lichens** have the appearance of ‘paint splashes’ and grow on a crusted closely attached to the substrate.
- **Foliate lichens** are leaf-like, having a distinct upper and lower surface and are often only loosely attached to the substrate.
- **Fruticose lichens** look like tiny shrubs or tufts of vegetation, with branches that are either hair-like, strap-like or scaly.
- **Squamulose lichens** are composed of small scales or plate-like structures, often anchored along one edge.

**Uses**
Lichens have been used by many cultures for dying wool and textiles. In Scotland, brown dyes (known as crottle) and red dyes (corkie) were both obtained from lichens and used to colour the wool. Lichens have also been used as food by many cultures. For example, reindeer and caribou in the Arctic and lichens have been eaten by humans as a delicacy as well as a staple food of reindeer and caribou.

There are few opportunities for poisoning arrowheads. One such lichen, Pseudevernia furfuracea, known for its preservative and aromatic qualities, is believed to have been used by ancient Egyptians for preserving bread as well as human tissue. There are also many chemical qualities, is believed to have been used by ancient Egyptians for preserving bread as well as human tissue.

**Control**
There are few opportunities for cultural control of lichens due to their strong survival abilities. Some of the leafy species that are loosely attached can be removed by scrubbing and this is often made easier when the target is thoroughly wet. There are no chemicals approved for the control of lichens, however, some of the proprietary biocides, surface or patio cleaners may be useful in removing them e.g. ‘Safor’ which contains organic acids and ‘Quatsol’ containing citric acid.

**BASIS**

**Self Assessment**

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim BASIS points by visiting the BASIS Points异味 section on the Sherriff Amenity website – www.sherriff-amenity.com and answering the questions correctly.

1) Which components come together to form lichen? More than one may apply.
   a) Host (b) mycobiont and photobiont
   c) fungus and cyanobacteria
d) fungus and algae

2) In which year was the dual theory proposed by Simon Schwendener?
   a) 1789
   b) 1849
   c) 1867
   d) 1903

3) Approximately what percentage of known lichens contain the algae Trentepohlia spp.?
   a) 90%
   b) 95%
   c) 30%
   d) 10%

4) What is the disk or cup structure of an Ascomycete-based lichen called?
   a) an apothecium
   b) a basidium
   c) a poroid
   d) a soralia

5) Which of the following statements are true? More than one may apply.
   a) Lichens are toxic to humans
   b) Host proteins are most indigestible
   c) Lichens have been used as food preservatives
   d) Lichens are used to survey air quality

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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.
## We need you

Now is your chance to join BIGGA’s Open Championship Volunteer Support Team for the 144th tournament at St Andrews in July 2015. The R&A have again asked BIGGA to supply a Support Team of volunteer greenkeepers and The R&A will again be providing accommodation, food, refreshments and uniform.

This team, made up of full BIGGA members, will support the home greenkeeping team at St Andrews. Arriving on site on Sunday 12 July, members of the team will be required to rake for the players during the tournament itself. You may also be required to help out with early morning preparation work and evening divot duties until the end of the final round on Sunday 19 July.

It’s intense and tiring, but a superb professional and personal development opportunity, and also an excellent chance to meet the home greenkeeping team and other BIGGA members from across a huge variety of courses.

Tony Bartram, Greenkeeper at The Richmond Golf Club, was a member of last year’s team and summed it up when he said “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. As I walked over the bridge at the end I was really quite choked because it hit me it was all over.”

To apply, please fill in this application form and enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF by Friday 30 January 2015. The team will be announced in February.

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BTME PREVIEW
A look ahead to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, 20-22 January 2015

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT BTME 2015

The BIGGA Turf Management exhibition has something for everyone as the countdown continues to the exhibition of the year at Harrogate in January. Over a hundred exhibitors will be packing the four halls of the Harrogate International Centre, with several new names joining the party including Perrot, Engo Group, Gianni Ferrari and GGM Groundscare.

There are also a host of long standing companies returning – the Barntnes stand in particular has grown (B78), close to BIGGA’s own stand (B23).

Hall M sees Ransomes Jacobsen, Toro and John Deere exhibit too as excitement builds.

Keep up to date with all the exhibitor news by visiting www.btme.org.uk/media/press releases, which features regular updates on new products, innovations, giveaways and attractions on the stands.

BIGGA’s largest ever Continue to Learn education programme is thriving with some seminars already sold out.

Don’t forget there are a series of free seminars for BIGGA members on a wide range of subjects from staging the Open Championship to guidelines for fertiliser use.

Remember that you still need to pre-book for these seminars at www.btme.org.uk.

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This is a hugely enjoyable evening celebrating the various greening achievements of BIGGA members over the last 12 months. Entry is free.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: “Our focus is now firmly on ensuring BTME 2015 builds on the excellent foundations of recent BTMEs which have been overwhelming successes.

“We’re constantly communicating with exhibitors to ensure BTME remains the ‘must visit’ turf industry exhibition and provides the best delegate experience.

“We’re extremely confident in providing this in January.”

“ For 2015 we’re particularly proud of our Continue to Learn programme which is the largest and most comprehensive ever.

“ I urge anyone thinking of booking a place on the Turf Managers’ Conference, or any of our seminars, workshops and presentations to act now as places are disappearing fast.

“The whole BIGGA team is very much looking forward to welcoming delegates, exhibitors and Continue to Learn presenters from across the UK, Europe and the world and from every corner of the industry to our flagship show.”

BTME runs from 20-22 January 2015, with Continue to Learn covering 18-21 January and the Turf Managers’ Conference taking place on 19 January.

Avoid the queues - pre-register for BTME 2015 - www.btme.org.uk

For more news and updates follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd
EXHIBITOR BOOST FOR BTME 2015

Europe’s biggest turf management exhibition has been boosted by the announcement that Jacobsen, John Deere and Toro have decided to exhibit in January.

In a move which acknowledges the importance of BTME in the turf management calendar, the three brands are set to take small-scale stands at January’s event and have also committed to return in 2016 with a full scale presence.

They join over a hundred other exhibitors from across the industry covering course design, club management, drainage, fertilisers, machinery, landscaping, spraying and much more – reinforcing the message that a visit to BTME is a not to be missed event, and that the three brands are set to take small-scale presence at the event will be low key, it’s fantastic that they will be in attendance and have also committed to exhibiting in full force in 2016.

Gina Putnam, Director, Marketing & Communications International, Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, said: “With the tough economic conditions being experienced throughout the UK golf industry we at Jacobsen have recently reviewed our marketing strategy and taken the decision to support BTME in 2015. “Our policy going forward will alternate between small and large stands, so for 2015 we will have a limited presence, but will return in 2016 with a more significant stand. This shift of policy clearly demonstrates our continuing support for BIGGA and the industry in general.”

SYNGENTA DISEASE CONTROL INSIDE OUT

A fascinating new insight into turf diseases, and how they impact on plant health, will give greenkeepers, turf managers and agronomists the chance to make better agronomic decisions to minimise damage and protect playing surface quality more effectively.

Presented for the first time at BTME 2015, revolutionary new high-tech microscopy and novel 3-D imagery - exclusively captured by the Syngenta R&D biokinetics crop imaging and sensing unit - has captured details of just how Microdochium (Bog’s patch) germinates and penetrates into the turf, and where the disease pathogen attacks cells.

Using these techniques Syngenta Technical Managers can explain how different fungicide work, and identify where the modes of action are most appropriate in tackling different stages of disease and under different conditions.

Looking at turf diseases at such incredible detail and understanding the issues inside out means that greenkeepers can select the most appropriate option for any given situation.

Look out for your 3-D glasses and special BTME offers from Syngenta, or visit the BTME stand B52.

Disease Control Inside Out will also be presented by Syngenta Technical Services Manager, Marcela Munoz, as part of the BTME Continue To Learn seminar series on Tuesday 20 January at 4.00pm.

Also, visit the Syngenta stand to find out the winner of this year’s Operation Pollinator Award, which recognises excellence in ecological habitat conservation and wildflower resource creation.

LIMAGRIN AT BTME 2015

Limagrain UK, one of the world’s largest seed companies, will be exhibiting at BTME 2015 on stand C39 where it will be showcasing its sports turf and wildflower mixtures including the market leading MM mixtures for golf greens, tees and fairways.

The demand and pressure placed on the modern day greenkeeper to produce the best possible, most consistent playing surface continues to grow. Seed quality, purity and vigour are the essential ingredients of a first-class golf course and Limagrain’s range of seed mixtures proves exactly these.

No matter what the condition or requirements of your course, the extensive MM range has a solution for all. All of the mixtures have been thoroughly tested at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI).

Also on show will be the company’s other established brand of amenity grass and wildflower resource creation.

LIMAGRIN’S RANGE OF WILDFLOWER MIXTURES

Not only can they add attractive colours to compliment any golf course but they also help to improve the biodiversity.

Limagrain’s range of wildflower mixtures demonstrates our continuing commitment to compliment any golf course but they also help to improve the biodiversity, and much more – reinforcing the message that a visit to BTME is a not to be missed event, and that the three brands are set to take small-scale presence at the event will be low key, it’s fantastic that they will be in attendance and have also committed to exhibiting in full force in 2016.

Limagrain’s range of wildflower mixtures demonstrates our continuing commitment to compliment any golf course but they also help to improve the biodiversity.
At BTME 2015, Headland Amenity will be showcasing Crystal Green®, a source of slow-release phosphorous, nitrogen and magnesium recovered from nutrient-rich UK wastewater. Crystal Green makes for an eco-friendly fertiliser that enhances nutrient efficiency, while significantly reducing the threat of leaching and runoff. Most phosphorus fertilisers are highly water-soluble and rapidly react in the soil becoming unavailable for plant uptake. As turfgrass grows it produces organic acids, such as citrates, to help roots absorb nutrients. Crystal Green® is formulated with highly water-soluble phosphorous, which has low water solubility, releasing slowly in response to organic acid production gradually supplying the soil solution with nutrients to meet plant demand. This process minimises excess phosphorus in the soil, lowering the risk of leaching and runoff while providing the turf a season-long supply of phosphorus according to two plants’ requirements.

Whilst the original Crystal Green® 3-28-10 formulation is suitable to aid establishment and to maintain P availability in free draining soils, it is also a perfect slow-release partner in fertiliser blends. Headland has used it successfully in their four 10-10-10-NO3 product, launched at BTME 2014. Also of note is Headland’s new Pro Turf liquid nutrient range and improvements to the highly successful ‘Weathercheck’ location specific forecasting module – all feature on stand C30.

NEW JOHN DEERE MOWER AT BTME 2015

One of John Deere’s new A Model fairway mowers, a 7700A PrecisionCut model, will be shown for the first time at BTME 2015 in Harrogate. The company will be taking a small-scale stand to highlight the range’s advanced technology features, which are designed to produce a higher quality finish on golf courses and other sports and amenity turf areas, as well as provide users with greater control of the machines and easier operator training. Based on extensive feedback from greenkeepers and other golf and turf industry professionals, these features include a simple to use TechControl digital display, LoadMatch as used on the John Deere compact tractor range, and OnCourse Technology for improved overall performance and reliability, better diagnostics and increased operator comfort. The simple to use, password protected TechControl display enables the course manager, head greenkeeper or deputy to quickly set or change mowing, turning and transport speeds, for example, to limit variations in performance by different operators and provide a more consistent, quality finish. On-board visual diagnostics and this ability to set regular service intervals also help to maximise productive time.

In addition, the new A Model E-Cut hybrid electric fairway mowers can be set to automatically deliver reduced engine speed during mowing, with fuel savings of up to 30 per cent. John Deere will also be joining BIGGA in announcing the regional winners of a special membership promotion at the show. Five lucky members of BIGGA (plus one GCSAI member in Ireland) are being given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to the US and work with the greenkeeping team and other volunteers from around the world at the legendary Tournament Players Club at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. The TPC Sawgrass volunteer programme will see the winners travel to the States in May 2015 to work on the course before and during the Players’ Championship, a PGA Tour event. “John Deere is a long-term supporter of both BIGGA and the GCSAI, so we are very pleased to provide this exciting new opportunity for their members,” says John Deere Limited turf division manager Chris MacCoid. “TPC Sawgrass is well known as the home of The Players’ Championship, as the backdrop to the PGA Tour headquarters, and for the intimidating island green on its 17th hole, but it also has one of the most well-managed and effective volunteer programmes in golf. The successful volunteers from the UK and Ireland will get invaluable experience as part of a 125+ member team involved in this major tournament’s preparation and organisation, as well as the opportunity to network with their peers. We look forward to meeting and congratulating the winners at Harrogate in January.”

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pre-register for BTME
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dates follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd
web: www.campeyturfcare.com
BAYER TO ANNOUNCE INNOVATIONS AT BTME 2015

Dr Colin Mumford, Bayer’s technical manager, will be talking about more developments in turf fungicide innovation in his seminar at BTME in January.

Taking to Greenkeeper International, Colin explained this new chemistry has been in the making for the past 15 years, which gives us an insight into the research and development process that brings new products to market. He also gave details of the CLP label changes we can expect to see and discusses the growing importance of environmentally friendly disposal of chemicals.

Bringing new chemistry to market
The process of developing each new active ingredient often involves the analysis of up to 100,000 potential active substances, extensive trial work and around £300 million.

Those attending BTME will have the opportunity to see some of our work and, at the same time, gain valuable insight into the research that’s carried out to develop each new product.

Currently in the final stages of the regulatory approval process, the latest Bayer fungicide innovation will see a whole new chemical class introduced to the sports turf sector with the advent of a new active ingredient. This new fungicide will also use the unique Bayer Stressgard™ Formulation Technology which has been proven to be both effective and reliable in enhancing disease management and stress reduction, and to improve playability and performance within our existing fungicide product, Interface™.

Phytobac
Alongside bringing new chemistry to market, waste management and environmentally friendly practices are also high on our agenda.

We’re working proactively to reduce waste in all areas of our business, from recycling packaging to the management of chemical effluent. Developed by our French counterparts, the Phytobac system is a new introduction to the UK turf and amenity sector, and one very well received by those who attended the recent STrI research event.

It’s important to emphasise the updated Clp label changes
The standard in turf protection and Bayer’s most powerful turf fungicide to-date, it manages disease stress leading to improved turf quality and playability.

- All stage disease protection that prevents, cures and eradicates
- Broad spectrum control including fusarium, dollar spot, anthracnose, leaf spot, rust and red thread
- Ultimate flexibility - effective year round, even when turf is stressed

Find out more about the latest innovations from Bayer at a seminar lead by Dr Colin Mumford
(21st Jan 15, 16:00-16:30)

www.interfacefungicides.com

SEE COLIN’S SEMINAR AT BTME FOR FREE ON WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY AT 4PM. FOR MORE VISIT WWW.BTME.ORG.UK
A Passion for Quality and Service

......it’s our commitment!

With in-house product development and manufacturing expertise coupled with a knowledgeable and qualified sales staff, we’ve a rapidly expanding customer base of distributors, re-sellers and end users across the UK.

Our commitment means you can expect to get optimum results from our products and a level of service to match.

Visit us at BTME-stand C35

We are seeking distributors in overseas markets for our range of wetting agents.

See us at BTME 2015 Stand C4

Nationwide suppliers of

• Capillary Concrete Bunker Liner
• Mivena Controlled & Slow Release Fertilizers
• Dried Infill Sand for Synthetic Turf
• Top Dressing Bagged & Loose
• Drainage Grits & Gravels
• Sands and Rootzones
• Cricket Loam
• Grass Seed

See us at BTME 2015 Stand C4

Avoid the queues and pre-register for BTME 2015 at www.btme.org.uk

For more news and updates follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd

GRASS GROUP DOUBLES UP AT BTME 2015

With so many new products The Grass Group has had to double its stand size at BTME 2015! In part, it’s to make room for new signing GKB machinery, plus an expanded showfloor from Trilo. Established brands like ATT, RotaDairon and CTI Tines have also been accommodated.

One of the highlights from the Trilo portfolio will be the BL960 Blower, designed to be one of the most powerful on the market. The BL960 is fitted with a 960mm fan complete with 9 fan blades providing a large capacity and far reaching air making it ideal for use in large parks or on the golf course. It is driven by a Walterscheid PTO shaft and can optionally be equipped with a 180 degree reversible spouts which can be operated from the driver’s seat.

Selected out of the innovative GKB range of equipment will be the Sandfiller. This machine is ideal for golf courses and sports fields where surface water and moss forming are a problem. It provides economic and environmentally-friendly aeration of the top layer by using these adjustable depth rollers and a slitting rotor. It can then fill the trenches with sand - the flow of which is controlled hydraulically by a valve on the side of the machine.

More than just a wash-off system...

Also rapidly treats fuel and chemical spillages...

Reduces water usage by 90% and qualifies for 100% FYA tax allowance under the ECA Scheme

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FREE OFFER
*T o all orders received up to 31st March 2015!

2 YEAR INTEREST FREE OFFER EXTENDED
*To all orders received up to 31st March 2015!
Highspeed Group Ltd (Stand C15), a regular exhibitor at BTME will be well worth a visit this year as the company will be featuring new products and there’s to be rather a special surprise.

Pressed on this, joint MD David Mears was reluctant to divulge details but commented: “If you are washing machinery, it will certainly be in your interest to visit the Highspeed stand!”

Highspeed Group with their various brands has become a “One Stop Shop”, particularly in the UK.

The One Stop Shop now offers:

ClearWater - Already established as the number one below ground Water Recycling System, the system is gaining new customers regularly, especially since the introduction of the Groundwater Regulations; already law.

To prevent pollution, meet these legal obligations and save thousands of litres of precious (and increasingly expensive) water, ClearWater offers you probably the least expensive and most effective solution.

Bundupdate - This online division of Highspeed Group Ltd will be exhibiting new products at BTME and all orders placed, as a result of the show, will be at online or even better priced! See the latest diesel Fuel Points from Carbery and their exceptional value of tanks.

Check out too the innovative CUBE diesel tanks from CEMO together with their portable petrol and diesel trolleys, not forgetting the popular DT Mobil mini tanks. Bundupdate.com is not just tanks however; the range includes sump pallets, salt spreaders, transit boxes (for petrol), below ground and steel tanks, locks, electronic contents gauges, pumps, flow meters, IBC’s.

Waste Management Services. The service is operated nationally by the group from their registered waste transfer station in Keighley. Collections are made with their own liveried fleet and with uniformed and trained drivers.

The most popular package comprises five dedicated UN approved containers for waste oil, filters, chemical packaging, aerosols and workshop waste (normally sufficient for most golf clubs). With unlimited collections and package prices from £295, Waste Away is well worth looking into.

Workwear. The range of workwear and PPE from Highspeed has grown over the years with new items added each season and staying up to date. A speciality is the personalisation of shirts, pullovers, jackets, etc. with club and/or individual name and often a logo.

Tools and Equipment. Highspeed offers massive range of hand, power tools and equipment from a simple screwdriver to a large four post vehicle lift. Ask for a catalogue.

Oils, Lubricants and associated products. The group’s original products now an up to date range of oils, greases and associated items incorporating the latest technology and including non-turf burning hydraulic oils.

There’s also screen wash, degreasers, line marker paint, anti-freeze and more. Come see us on Stand C15.

With investment in a Recycling Wash System now an urgent priority to ensure compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive, Wastewater is delighted to be exhibiting their award-winning Recycling Wash Off System at Stand B46. The Wastewater Recycling Wash Off System ensures compliance with the new environmental legislation.

Our Above-Ground Systems allows easy maintenance and the innovative design means you don’t need to install our systems in a building or a container and there are no expensive underground tanks to empty.

Installation could not be easier, often retro-fitting into an existing area to minimising the budget.

Make sure you call by to view the system and see why we are the clear No.1 choice in the UK. And don’t forget our 2 Year Interest Free Finance Offer for all orders received up to the 31st March 2015, making our system even more affordable with the ultimate Buy Now Pay Later Scheme!

We look forward to seeing you, or if you can’t make it to BTME this year just call...
Let’s Deconstruct a Water Molecule

Many of the unique properties of water can be attributed to its molecular construction. The two hydrogen atoms and single oxygen atom of water are held together by a strong covalent bond (Figure 1). Although a water molecule is electronically neutral (i.e. nonionic), the geometric configuration of the covalent bonds of water creates a molecular structure for the entire water molecule, with oxygen having a partial negative charge and each hydrogen having a partial positive charge. This uneven distribution of charge within a molecule is known as a dipole, the bond and the molecule are said to be polar. Since opposite charges attract each other, the hydrogen region (negative charge) of other water molecules or negative sites on other molecules. This attraction of the hydrogen region of water molecules to negatively charged regions of other molecules is called hydrogen bonding (Figure 1).

Understanding the polar nature of water and the attraction of its hydrogen region to negative regions of other molecules (including negative sites on soil surfaces) will help to explain what happens to water when it is applied to, and moves through a soil profile. The natural state of water is in the form of a liquid. This fluid state of water is the consequence of water molecules existing in strong association with each other due to intermolecular polar attraction and hydrogen bonding.

How do water molecules interact?

Cohesion

Within a water droplet, water molecules are in a constant state of movement toward other water molecules. Each water molecule is subject to attractive and repulsive forces from nearby molecules that, on the average, are distributed in all directions. This strong attraction between water molecules is defined as cohesion (Figure 2).

Cohesive tension plays a major role in determining the amount of water that is attached to soil surfaces, collecting in pore spaces, or moves through the soil profile. It is the solvent for soil nutrients and the transport of those nutrients to, into, and through the plant. Without it, neither man, animals or plants can survive.

As turfgrass professionals, we strive to use water resources as efficiently as possible to maintain a quality turfgrass sward and a habitat for a broad diversity of microorganisms (algae, fungi, bacteria, actinomycetes) and fauna (insects, arthropods, nematodes, birds, etc.). How water interacts with soils and soil organic matter regulates infiltration, percolation, drainage, and retention, and influences runoff and groundwater recharge. Understanding the chemical and physical properties of water is an important element in understanding how water moves through soils and how it interacts with soil particle surfaces.

Interfacial Tensions

Surface Tension

When water comes into contact with air (liquid-air interface) only half of the surrounding space is occupied by other water molecules. This causes a new arrangement of the intermolecular forces in order to hold the surface molecules in place. Surfaces tend to move toward water, molecules at the surface tend to move toward the bulk of water molecules. This inward movement of water molecules is known as surface tension. Surface tension causes water to “pread” on a surface by the same contact angle (Figure 3). Surface tension also has a great deal to do with the ability of water to infiltrate pore spaces, whether they occur at the soil surface or within the soil profile.

Adhesion

When water comes in contact with a solid surface (liquid-solid interface), the polar attractive forces between water molecules and the solid surface (referred to as adhesion) control the affinity of the water for the solid. Water molecules at the liquid-solid interface will attract molecules containing polar sites through hydrogen bonding (hydration). Adhesive tension is associated with soil surfaces or ‘wetting’ of a soil. When adhesion exceeds the attraction between individual water molecules (cohesion), water will spread out on the solid surface.

The forces of cohesion, adhesion and surface tension influence capillary action which controls water retention and the upward and horizontal movement of water within the soil profile. Gravity, on the other hand, causes the downward movement of water through the root zone or from rainfall or soil drains due to gravity until drainage is limited by water’s adhesive properties. When water comes into contact with air (liquid-air interface) only half of the surrounding space is occupied by other water molecules. This causes a new arrangement of the intermolecular forces in order to hold the surface molecules in place. Surfaces tend to move toward water, molecules at the surface tend to move toward the bulk of water molecules. This inward movement of water molecules is known as surface tension. Surface tension causes water to “pread” on a surface by the same contact angle (Figure 3). Surface tension also has a great deal to do with the ability of water to infiltrate pore spaces, whether they occur at the soil surface or within the soil profile.

About the Author:

Stan Kostka: PhD in Plant Science Technology and Business Development at Aquatrols Corporation. Stan has been an invited speaker at many water and turfgrass events around the world and has used suction to draw water out of soil. Stan has used suction to draw water out of soil and access to phosphorus. Stan has used suction to draw water out of soil and access to phosphorus.
This story begins with the club’s owner Martin Long, also co-owner of Premier League football club Crystal Palace. He wanted to make Sweetwoods the best course in this particular part of the south east. A two million pound investment in the clubhouse showed ambition – but the plans of Course Manager Allan Tait and his team were the key step.

Recent bad winters had highlighted some weaknesses in the playing quality of the course. The 17th says everything about the beauty of Sweetwoods Park, yet it was a microcosm of the issues. This par three hole is just 133 yards long, but a real challenge – uphill, from the tee to the green. The view is glorious. Since last spring, it is here that the greenkeeping team at Sweetwoods Park Golf Club in Kent have addressed playing surface difficulties.

The main players were Allan, his team of five full-time greenkeepers and turf care supplier Sherriff Amenity. Extreme turf husbandry in tandem with biological support was the way forward.

Before Allan became a greenkeeper he was an apprentice footballer with Tottenham Hotspur. A professional career didn’t materialise, but his competitive edge stayed with him through his NVQ at Plumpton College, on to Deputy Head Greenkeeper and then Course Manager positions at Lindfield Golf Club and later for five years at nearby Kent club Nairn. Allan said: “The way to make progress and to learn more about the profession is to move.” The move he made to Sweetwoods Park was a challenging one indeed.

There had been a degree of disquiet among members concerning the greens, notably the iconic 17th. Allan’s first duty was to address the club’s AGM where he spelt out what he would have to do, which included some drastic measures.

Water movement was the main problem on the 17th – it was either too dry or soaking wet. Through lack of aeration, black layer had appeared. When water sits near the surface it can cause anaerobic conditions and ultimately surface degeneration. That’s exactly what was happening on the 17th green, and others at the club. Forcing rainwater and irrigation through the profile was the only answer.

This initial action of coring and deep scarifying was a priority just to get life back into the green after several weeks of winter rain.

Allan’s plan for the 17th green was fairly extreme culturally. The greenkeepers were to solid tine it weekly to start the process of ridging it of black layer. They would ‘hide’ the necessary surface disturbance by hand mowing afterwards, then apply Redhill 28 sand as a top-dressing, brushing it in by dragmat and firm it by vibrating roller. By the end of the year Allan estimates that about 25 tons of sand will have been distributed on the 17th green alone. Club members were getting used to seeing a sandy pin target as the months went by, but there were no complaints.

Tining was carried out by a combination of the John Deer Avvore and a Wiedenmann deep aerator to different depths to avoid pan ning. Allan carried out this routine throughout the summer, yet even in early May, barely a month after the start of this cultural revolution, there were signs of an improve ment.

Root mass was benefitting from double-passing with 12mm hollow tines, removing 4in deep cores. Same width solid tines penetrating down to 8-10 inches encouraged water to pass through the profile and unlock nutrients within the soil.

Allan said: “Firstly I needed to get full grass coverage, dry the surface out by top dressing regularly, and solid line as frequently as possible to get rid of the black layer.

“For aerating the ground the thickest layer will gradually go and there are already signs it is receding. The sand is already getting into it and breaking it up too, but it is a slow process.

“Thatchy turf is high maintenance. A thatch level of 8-10 mm is the optimum. We had an inch here.

If you remove the conditions, you won’t get the disease, so that’s our other priority.”

There had been input from Sherriff Amenity’s Adam Hartley from the word go. He and Allan had worked together previously on solving course turf issues and soil sampling revealed that lower down it was too rich in fertiliser. Thatch and black layer were acting as barriers to nutrients.

The use of seaweed extract in combination with vigorous aeration was Adam’s recommendation. The aim was to reduce the stress and release the excessive fertiliser.

Allan said: “We needed to make use of what was already there, but trapped. So we agreed that a combination of cultural mechanics and biological remedy was the best way forward. Adam recommended a tried and tested Sherriff Amenity product, SeaValion, to help uplift the 17th green and the others around the course.

“As a result of the AGM, I had the full support of the members from the outset and they have been totally supportive of the tough regime I needed to adopt. The owner has given me his practical backing, making over £50,000 available to invest in new equipment.”

A fully automatic ride-on sprayer, the Smiths Spraystar 2000, and a new Jacobsen GP400 greens mower were delivered to the course in May. Allan put them to work immediately and they are already delivering results.

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and have proved valuable additions to the team’s armoury. Since then he has pursued a fortnightly programme of SeaVolution application to greens, and as summer drifted into autumn he was more and more convinced by its effectiveness.

“Seaweed is just a gentle means of enhancing and stimulating microbial life without creating too much top growth. It gives added value to my routines and I plan to make it a standard part of the work, not just on greens, but tees too. You could say I’ve become a seaweed fan.”

Allan reckons that in just six months there has been 30 to 40 per cent improvement in the 17th green and others similarly stressed.

As summer kicked in the use of a wetting agent became essential as the thatch-laden surface began to repel both rainwater and irrigation. Allan used either Tricure or Drench, both equally successful products. Their chemistry allows them to be held by the soil particles and together with SeaVolution they are important aids to root development.

“In golf everywhere we’re pushing our greens turf more than ever these days. Expectations are higher. We roll more, so we have to aerate more. The extremes are greater, so seaweed and wetting agents come into play to ease the stress. Farmers have been putting seaweed on crops since the dawn of time. It’s not a cure-all, just a wonderful health ingredient. ”

As disease goes, Fusarium is the ‘leader of the pack’. For this, Allan’s new sprayer has been at work applying the preventative fungicide Astute from Sherriff Amenity. He’s also needed to reduce nitrogen levels on the 17th and other greens while the locked-up nutrients are being released. Another Sherriff Amenity product In Trench is helping him here. The product stimulates root growth and thicker stems giving a dense, green grass without causing a leaf growth. It can be used within a range of application rates. In Adam’s words “you can use it at lower rates, so reducing nitrogen inputs, without compromising results.”

There are plans to improve the 17th further. Restructuring to prevent water from getting on the green from the high surrounds and taking back the tree line canopy are possibilities once his cultural efforts – and SeaVolution - have improved the surface.

There is a distinct air of optimism now at Sweetwoods Park. The 17th green and other problem areas are on the mend, so players are happy: renewals are up on last year, so the Chairman is happy. The state of the greens is everything to the well-being of a course, and that’s where the greenkeeping team, with Sherriff Amenity’s help, are concentrating their efforts. Basic principles and sound biological knowledge are working well together.

Below: Early days – Allan Tait (left) and Sherriff Amenity’s Adam Hartley looking at the Black Layer scarring on the 17th green
Midland

Events Coming Up

MIDLAND

STRI will be running ‘Lunch Club’ events in conjunction with BIGGA Midland Section during the winter months. This is an opportunity for Course Managers and Deputy Head Greenkeepers to meet and provides a platform for discussion on a range of subjects. A working lunch is provided and CPD points will be awarded. The event will be held at Blackwell Golf Club on 8 December, from 11.30am until 2pm, with the following event to be confirmed in February. The event is strictly on a first come basis and must be booked in advance where details can be found on STRI and BIGGA Midland websites.

Congratulations and good luck to Andy Lane who’s moving from Greenkeeper, Cleethorpes Golf Club; Bradley Styring and Dave Hampshire for their on the day and their continued support of the section.

Welcome New Members

Mark Timberlake, Affiliate, Amtech Amenity, Peter Watts, Greenkeeper, Cleethorpes Golf Club; Bradley Styring and Kristian Allen, both greenkeepers, Robin Hood Golf Club.

News

MID ANGLIA

We had a fantastic day at Northants County GC on October 22 where all who played enjoyed a fine course and some lovely dry weather. Our thanks go to David Lowe and his greenkeeping team for providing us with a fantastic course which was in stunning condition as given the night before we had gale force winds. Results: 1. Armstrong 34pts, 2. V Holt 33, 3. Thorne 33. Nearest the Pin at the 3rd was G Bruce and the 15th was L Thorne.

EAST OF ENGLAND

AGM stabilised was held at Bungay Park GC, many thanks to all at Bungay Park, especially to David Ballantine and his team for the excellent golf course. Results: 1 Simon Boxet, 2 Rob Brumstead, 3 Merv Dickes, 4 Chris Davies. T - Gary Cooper.

Thanks to sponsors

MIDLAND

Many thanks to this month’s calendar sponsor Burgess Grass Machinery. For all your Ransomes, Jacobson machinery, parts and service contact 01785 666100 where a friendly member of their team will be happy to help.

MID ANGLIA

Thanks to our Sponsors of the section for 2014: ALS, Headland Amenity, Amcor Amenity, Farmura, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Amenity Technology, TuSweetMachines. We thank you for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section. Banja Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot. If you want to sponsor the Mid Anglia Section in 2014/15 please contact a committee member for details.

EAST OF ENGLAND

Thanks to the sponsors of the day at Bungay Park LMS Lincoln Ltd, Ransomes-Jacobsen and Dave Hampshire for the priers on the day and their continued support of the section.

Welcome New Members

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Northern

Events Coming Up

NORTH WALES

We will be running a coach to BTME 2015 on Thursday 22 January, will anyone interested in joining the coach please contact myself or Jeremy Hughes before the Christmas holidays so we can confirm numbers and pick up points.

CLEVELAND

TML Quiz Night on 17 December atBillingham Synthony Cricket Club from 7pm

News

CLEVELAND

With the grass cutting at Richmond Golf Club seemingly halting overnight I can turn my attention to the autumn renovation work. With nothing too big in the pipeline I shall be concentrating on tree pruning and woodland management on our feature 18th hole. Part of the work will include the regeneration of gorse plantations from tee to green.

This year’s autumn tournament was held at Bedlingtonshire Golf Club. The course was in great condition and Martin Woods and his team were a real pleasure to play. The competition was a ½ handicap stableford.

Results: 1 Martin Woods 32pts, 2 Spaggie 32, 3 Paul Walton 32pts 4 Ben McGratten 31, 5 Paul Legg 30, 6 Richie Hood 30. Trade Simon Holmes, longest drive Dave Avey, nearest the pin Martin Woods.

NORTH EAST

The north east section would like to welcome Simon Pearce who taken up the role of Head Greenkeeper at Alnwick GC. Simon was previously Head Greenkeeper at Painswick GC in Gloucester.

SHEFFIELD

Our Christmas comp was held at Sandfield Park Golf Club for a superb day and to all those who attended. Everyone went home with a prize. Thanks to Wilmslow Golf Club for a superb day and to all those who attended.

NORTHERN

As you are aware we have lost three members of the committee this year and as such all our call for help and Sandra beating a few guys up (I’ve have volunteers to come on board. Hopefully these guys will be voted on at the AGM and we will be back to full strength! Our first task will to study the feedback from the survey and make sure how many golf days we put on and where we are going to play.

Finally I would like to wish you all a great Christmas and look forward to seeing you all at next year’s fixtures.

NORTH WEST

The Best Cross Trophy Competition was held at Walslow GC on 11 November. Stove Culltrum and team produced a high standard competition for the day with Mark Hillaby the overall winner of the stabilised competition although everyone went home with a prize. Thanks to Walslow Golf Club for a superb day and to all those who attended.

The golf was followed by the AGM with 38 in attendance. 16 committee members were elected and at a meeting the following Monday the following officers were elected: William Merritt, Treasurer (07779 399229), Warren Bevan, Education Officer (07753 985855), Scott Reeves, Chairman (07955 708719), Chris Sherborn, Secretary (07740 700738), Gavyn Davies, Education Officer (07920 078814), Nicholas Gray, Membership (07973 811513), Tim Johnson, Communications (07773 343509), David Weir, Golf Organiser (07774 990230), Tom Wood, Communications (07709 244668), Committee members: Alan Dorey (07754 984464), Chris Gibson (07786 299613), Chris Harding (07781 924277), Richard Roberts (07966 520734), Rob Sheardowns (07777 258118), Colin Parish MJ (07794 938055), John Meallough (07900 884000).

Thanks to Sponsors

CLEVELAND

A big thank you to all the autumn tournament sponsors: Jamie Applegarth and Glen Baster of Rigby Taylor and Train, Greenlay, Richard Bagley, Richard Morris of Manfield Sand for sponsoring our Christmas comp.

NORTHERN

On behalf of the committee we can’t thank the sponsors enough for their fantastic support of our golf days, also to you guys for making the effort to come and play and support our section. So a massive thank you to Everitts, Melrose and Bathgate Sands, Rigby Taylor, Bolton Abbey mowers, Rob Wild grass machinery and to all trade members for their support over the year.

NORTH WEST

Thanks to all the sponsors of the Bert Cross Trophy.

Welcome New Members


Around the green

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

Section Notes

Readers are invited to contribute to the BIGGA notes pages...
Events Coming Up

SOUTH WALES

Our Christmas Competition will take place at Glyn South Golf Club on 12 December, one of the most interesting and varied golf courses in Wales within the Brecon Beacons National Park. First tee booked for 10.00am, Cost £15 and a three course meal. Quick reminder, The HROGA Turf Management Exhibition is 20-22 January 2015.

DEVON & CORNWALL

The Christmas meeting is Wednesday 10 December at St Enodoc Golf Club and the commedia will be Tank Sherman. If anyone is interested we are putting on a minibus this year to HEML, please contact George Pitts on 07929754401 or gitts.yelverton@gmail.com. An away trip is being planned to visit South Wales in March, possible dates and venues are being explored.

SOUTHWEST

Christmas Tournament and charity raffle will be held on 17 December at Cleerstream Golf Club. We expect it to be a fantastic day. The day kicks off at 9.30am with coffee and bacon rolls before golf, dinner and our world famous raffle. The Christmas competition will take place at Bowood Golf Club on 14 November. Well done guys and congratulations to Jamie Blake and Dan Taylor from Broadway GC for fighting their way all the way to the final. Following a minor reshuffle of the section committee the structure for the coming year is: Chairman Chris Slaney, Vice Chairman Darren Moodham, Secretary Lacey Selleck, Treasurer Antony Knight, Education Paul Worster and Stuart Bowman, Fixtures Joe Curtis, Magazine Jaey Goodchild, Regional Representative John Keenaghan, Committee member Adam Matthews and Trade Representative Ian Barnett.

After many years of hard work as Section Secretary, Adam Matthews has taken a step back. Adam will remain on the committee to offer his valued support. On behalf of all section members I would like to thank Adam for his hard work and commitment over the last few years. Also, we have to welcome Stuart Bowman, Course Manager at Thornbury Golf Club who has joined the committee and will be assisting Paul Worster with education co-ordination.

Thanks to Sponsors

SOUTH WALES

A big thank you to the Patrons for 2014 thanks for your support.

DEVON & CORNWALL

Thanks to DGM and Marty Lane Golf for sponsoring the event at Torquay. Thanks also to Bayer and Southwest Reel Grinding for their prizes and contribution to the section at Palisstow.

SOUTHWEST

Many thanks to our South West Section 2014 Patrons: Sportsmark, Greensman, Inttech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Fairway, Ecosse, T H White and Indigrow for their invaluable support of South West Section events and training.

Welcome New Members


countback on back six. Nearest the pins were Mark Wells and Colin Fulton, best Trade P Holmstrom. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Mike Williams and his team, the food after was amazing.

DEVON & CORNWALL

The recent meeting at Torquay Golf Club gave those attending the chance to see the latest offering from Campey Turfplan. In conjunction with local dealer and event sponsor D.G.M, the VGR Top Changer was put through its paces. Using high pressure water, holes were created, which were then automatically filled with kiln dried sand in one pass. Everybody was impressed, especially when the depth of sand injection was exposed by taking a soil profile.

Thank you to Jason Brooks, Head Greenkeeper at Torquay for setting up the course up for the day. Thank you for the course walk and the catering. Results: Nearest the pin – Antony James, Longest Drive – Shaun Warren, 1 Antony James Nett 66, 2 Terry Farrins Nett 67, 3 Cian McMorin Nett 72.

Thanks to Falmonth Golf Club for hosting the recent day, and thanks to the catering staff and Head Greenkeeper Simon Johnson for setting up the course up for us in the trickiest of conditions.

The course walk went really well as did the PowerPoint presentation on the construction they had done to create the new greens. Thank you to Steve Gingell for the presentation and his time.

The competition was reduced to Wales due to the rain we had first thing, 1 Mike Ellis 69, 2 Anthony James 66, 3 Andre Prowse 14.

The section presented a plaque to Brian Summers as a founder member of the section and former Chairman.

We appreciate his hard work and time. We wish Brian and his wife the best for the future.

SOUTH WEST

Congratulations to Leigh Meredy and Mike Sage from Knowle GC who have won the Countywide Farmers South West Knockout Competition held at Bowood Golf Club on 14 November. Well done guys and congratulations to Jamie Blake and Dan Taylor from Broadway GC for fighting their way all the way to the final.
Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...!

Scotland

The Section held its AGM at Auchterarder GC on 4 November with 17 members attending. Shawn Anderson from Pipertam was elected Chairman, replacing Bob Mekle. Richard Jekinson of West was then elected Vice Chairman.

Thank you to Andy O’Hara, Derek Scott, Gordon McKee and Derek Robson who all stood down from the Committee after numerous years of service and the four were presented with a small something to help keep them warm over the coming winter. Gordon McKee remains as Sec/Treasurer while Craig Borthayre, Paul Armour, St Andrews were elected on to the Committee. Jim Cruickshank was presented with a cheque for £600 from the Section for the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

Congratulations to John Ratten on St Andrews Links for winning this year’s Patrons award in the Section...John will now be travelling to STME for a few days as his prize. Communications to all the other entrants.

Events Coming Up

North

The Section have chosen Stuart Ferguson to fill this role, Stuart is a stalwart of BIGGA and the Section and is a worthy candidate for this role. Stuart will take over as Scottish Vice Chairman in the near future.

Anyone wishing to have news added or are willing to write a short topic of interest for the GI Magazine then please get in touch. Again a reminder if your contact details have changed please feedback ASAP.

Welcome New Member

Duncan MacMadden, Greenkeeper, Portob Golf Club

South East

The Surrey section AGM and Turkey Trot will be held at Guildford GC on 19 December, be sure to get your entries in for this end of year event.

Events Coming Up

West

May I take this time to thank all the patrons for their support through the year especially those in the West Section, your continued participation in this scheme is extremely valuable and the section thanks you very much for assisting in the year’s proceedings, this year’s winner of the award is David Orm of Downsmead.

Surrey

This committee was elected: Chair - Mike Poole, Vice Chair - Eric Green, Secretary - Pete Smith, Treasurer - Pete Smith, Committee Member - Tony Woody, Trade Representative - Chris Humphrey.

Special thanks were given to Rob Hudson for the last 10 years’ loyal service and dedication as Chairman of the section. Rob saw the section through some hard times and helped make Surrey the strong and well supported section it is today. Thanks Rob.

Thanks to Sponsors

On behalf of the committee, thanks to all the sponsors who have supported us this year, keep in mind your thoughts for those less fortunate than ourselves and all the family over this festive period.

Welcome New Members

Greenkeeper Training

A guide to the range of training provided throughout the UK

BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

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

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

This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

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

SRUC
Cupar, Fife, KY15 5AJ
Contact: Michael.clark@sruc.ac.uk
www.sruc.ac.uk/crilmood
01334 658669

Gosta
50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB
Contact: Lesley Lowrie 0141-586-3999
Fax: 0141-586-4999 learntogettraining.co.uk
SVQ Level 2 and 3 and Modern Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping/ Sports turf and Landscape. Attendance Day release or Distance Learning. SVQ Level 4 is available with flexible learning options. Lantra and NPTC Industry related short courses with certification include Pesticide courses, Chainsaw, full range of Machine training, First Aid, Defibrillation training and many more. Candidates may use their Individual Learning Account to fund many of the courses. Training courses are available in Glasgow and Edinburgh areas throughout the year.

ENGLAND

Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 1FR
Contact: Central admissions 01904 772211
enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk www.askham-bryan.ac.uk
Extended Diploma and Foundation Diploma in Sports Turf Science and Management. Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management. All available full or part-time.

Oaklands College
Smallfield Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0DA
Contact: Andrew Wight 01727 373735
amy.wright@oaklands.ac.uk www.oaklands.ac.uk
Oaklands College offers on-demand on-line learning for City and Guilds courses at Level 2 and 3. Apprenticeships at Level 2 and 3 and on-line Higher National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management throughout the South East. In addition we offer monthly on-site conferences for SVQ Levels 2 and 3. Full-time Horticultural courses are on offer include City and Guilds Entry Level 3 to Level 2.

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

Askham Bryan
York, North Yorkshire, YO23 1FR
Contact: Central admissions 01904 772211
enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PR
Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB
Contact: Customer Services: 0845 609 9999
duchytearms@duchy.ac.uk; www.duchy.ac.uk

Merrist Wood College
Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey
Gu3 3PE. Contact Andrew McEvoy 07966 674786
amcevoy@merrist.ac.uk www.merrist.ac.uk
Courses include: Sports Turf Management NVQ Level 4 - on-line distance learning. Sports Turf Diploma Level 3 - on-line distance learning. Sports Turf Apprenticeship Diploma Level 3 (October to the end of March only), Sports Turf Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2 (October to the end of March only). FDPA Safe Use and Operation of Mowers, Tractor Driving, Hedge Trimmers, Turf Maintenance Equipment & FDPA Spraying. Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphate for Mole Control Certification is available for Apprenticeships for Level 2 and 3, 16-18 fully funded, 19 + partially funded.

D&T College
Lancaster, Cumbria, LA1 4YH
Contact: Neil Quilter 01524 830937
n.quilter@dectr.ac.uk www.dectr.ac.uk

REASEHEATH
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF
Contact: Course Hotline 01270 613242
enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk www.reaseheath.ac.uk
Industry tailored, block / day release Level 2 and Level 3 Apprenticeships in Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. NPTC and other short courses including pesticide application, chain saw operation, safe use of mowers and manual handling. Also full time Level 3 Diplomas in Horticulture with sports turf modules. £5.5 million national centre for horticulture, food production and the environment currently under construction. See website for course events.

ScotlAnd

M nylon

M yerscough College is one of the UK’s leading centres of excellence for the delivery of Higher Education courses in Sportsturf Science and Management. Applications are invited for courses starting in September 2015. Myerscough College’s Degree in Sportsturf Science and Management is one of the UK’s leading centres of excellence for the delivery of Higher Education courses in Sportsturf Science and Management. Applications are invited for courses starting in September 2015.
Reaseheath College has a national reputation for the excellence of its turf care training. It has used its golf, football, rugby, bowls and cricket resources to train students for over four decades. Students have gone on to professionally serve the industry all over the world, having completed full-time and part-time courses at varying levels.

The College currently recognises that the majority of students are now employed in the industry and gain their practical skills in the workplace under the Apprenticeship/Work Based Diploma scheme. The work-based qualification is delivered to answer the requirements of industry, with the students attending college during the quieter Autumn/Winter season of October to March for blocks of three days each month.

Additionally Horticulture students on the Level 3 Extended Diploma have the opportunity to study a Sports Turf route, supporting progression into the industry and to Higher Education. This has allowed the College and Sports Turf Team in particular, the opportunity to consider how training is currently delivered, and how to maximise its full potential. It has been decided to develop an £8m national scheme. The work-based qualification is delivered to answer the requirements of industry, with the students attending college during the quieter Autumn/Winter season of October to March for blocks of three days each month.

To answer increasing demand for sports turf courses and to hopefully increase soil microbial population, the College is expanding its Turf care offering, which will include a Turf and Ornamental Practice with an extended offering of sports turf courses.

The GTC invites employers and greenkeepers to visit its stand, B29, at BTME to discuss all aspects of greenkeeper education, training and qualifications. The GTC is funded by: the Government, the turf industry, Employers and the Employer Partnership. 

The GTC is Quality Assured by the City & Guilds of London Institute, is registered on the various turf qualifications and is Quality Assured by Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA).

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The GTC is Quality Assured by the City & Guilds of London Institute, is registered on the various turf qualifications and is Quality Assured by Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA).
Ben Burgess has served the local agricultural and horticultural community since 1932. As one of the original John Deere dealers, the company has grown to have six depots across East Anglia. With a specialist golf and turf department, Ben Burgess also operates the largest dealer-based agricultural, construction and horticultural hire fleet in Europe.

Our fleet includes specialist machinery, arborist equipment, plus golf course construction services. With Deere dealers, the company has grown to currently being the prime time to move many things to consider when moving trees in order to provide the best course. There are many factors and conditions worth considering before your course staff get to work. Considering how you could improve your course, the deciduous variety, it may be worth much more.

Ben Burgess offers a root ball diameter of 110cm and it is reliable and easy-to-operate, plus UK. Originally imported from Germany, offered this service for the last six seasons, and horticultural hire fleet in Europe.

With a specialist golf and turf department, Ben Burgess has served the local agricultural and horticultural community since 1932. As one of the original John Deere dealers, the company has grown to have six depots across East Anglia.
**Experienced Greenkeeper**

We are currently looking for an experienced and suitably qualified Greenkeeper to join our team. The successful candidate will have a minimum of NVQ Level 2 or one year full time experience of greenkeeping. Following the departure of our Head Greenkeeper, it is in urgent need to secure the course forward, the applicant will ideally possess the following attributes and qualifications:-

- Good interpersonal skills
- Excellent intercpt skills
- Good time management and communication skills
- Be capable of operating a full range of equipment associated with the post (e.g. basic machinery and fine line maintenance equipment
- A strong work ethic and ability to work unsupervised or as part of a team and as an individual

Please forward a CV along with a covering letter and salary expectation to: The Secretary, Lancashire Golf Club, Hemsworth Road, Blackburn, BB1 9LS

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**Technical Sales Representatives – UK wide**

Rigby Taylor Ltd, the UK’s leading supplier of products and services to the Sports, Amenity and Landscape market and one of the sector’s key innovators, are seeking to recruit additional Technical Sales Representatives across the UK. Rigby Taylor supplying quality products in all its product ranges direct to end users through a highly qualified sales force. By maintaining very close links with our customers, we ensure the development of our product ranges is focused very closely on customer needs.

We are looking for highly motivated, dynamic individuals with a proven record in technical sales and a passion to deliver targets. Knowledge and experience of the industries mentioned above would be favourable as would industry qualifications such as FASCT or BASIS.

We offer a competitive package of salary and bonus, plus company car, pension and other company benefits.

Applications should be made by emailing a CV and covering letter to careers@rigbytaylor.com. As part of The Origin Enterprises PLC, Rigby Taylor offers a career opportunity within a global business.

Closing date for applications is 31st December 2014

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**Deputy Course Manager Required Windmill Village Hotel Golf & Leisure Club**

There are a total of 36 full time staff and 16 seasonal positions. The job will be based on site, but could include travel to other properties as required.

Weekend work will also be required which can be in the form of on call for the majority, with two tours for the season.

Qualifications needed

- Excellent customer service and communication skills
-銷售

If interested, please send a CV and covering letter to: The Secretary, Windmill Village Hotel Golf & Leisure Club, Berrington Road, Allesley, Coventry, CV59AL

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**Field Sales and Technical Specialist Manchester, North of England**

Do you want to be part of a successful, innovative and market leading manufacturing company? For over 40 years Farmura has grown its business and portfolio to provide a specialist range of Organic, Water Management and Nutritional products suitable for fine turf within the UK, Ireland and Europe. These products include market leaders such as Prothrive, Revolve and Revitalize. As part of our planning to continue and expand our business in the North of England, we are looking to recruit an individual to develop our business in the North of England.

The successful applicant will need to be highly motivated, well organised and have good interpersonal skills. You will have a minimum of 2 years sales experience and be able to deal with customers and make sales in a high-pressure environment. Have a valid driving licence and the ability to travel throughout the North of England.

Salary negotiations will be dependent on experience and will be reviewed after a successful qualifying period. Experience of working in the industry would be an advantage but not necessary.

Interested candidates are required to email their CV to: info@farmura.com - If you would like an informal discussion prior to applying please contact Gerald Orme on 07739 800 916 regarding this position, for further product information please visit our website www.farmura.com

Closing Date: 20th December 2014

Contact Details:

Tel: 01233 633 267
Email: sandfield_golf@yahoo.co.uk

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Contact Jill Rodham on 01347 833 812

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**COURSE MANAGER REQUIRED FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY GOLF CLUB**

Northamptonshire County is a Private Member’s club and is comprised of one of the leading courses in the Midlands. A heathland type course that hosts many county, regional and national tournaments and has been an Open Qualifying venue for many years. The course has an 18 hole course with a tough par 70 plus 2 additional holes to make a simple loop together with a par 3 course and excellent practice facilities, making for a challenging and satisfying golf environment.

The successful candidate will
- Manage and lead an experienced and well qualified greenkeeping team
- Be able to achieve and sustain the course in a condition that would qualify top 100 status. Must have appropriate certification and be able to carry out all tasks at a high level
- Have sufficient knowledge to operate and control computer driven irrigation system
- Keep the membership informed regarding course matters
- Understand the importance of the highest possible standard of service and maintenance
- Appreciate the ethos of a traditional member’s run club

The person appointed will be highly self motivated, really hard working and not expect to complete the necessary tasks within a limited time frame. Reporting to the Secretary, the successful candidate will become a vital part of an established management team within the Club that has taken the Club forward over the coming years.

Please apply in writing or e-mail with full CV and covering letter stating your current salary and benefits to: The Secretary, Northamptonshire County Golf Club, Church Brampton, Northampton, NN3 2AZ or email: secretary@countygolfclub.org.uk

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Closing date for applications will be 10th January 2015 and interviews for initial interviews will be in February 2015 with the interviews likely to take place week commencing 20th January 2015.

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**Recruitment**

**Head Greenkeeper Sandfield Golf Course & Driving Range**

We are looking to appoint a Head Greenkeeper to take responsibility for maintaining this well established 9 hole golf facility located outside Chester, Cheshire.

This role requires a motivated individual with a good eye for detail and a desire to manage and maintain a course to the highest standard. This is a unique opportunity to play a key role in continuing the development of the course and increasing the profitability of the business. Only top calibre candidates will be considered.

Responsibilities will include:

- Good time management and communication skills
- Be capable of operating a full range of equipment associated with the post (e.g. basic machinery and fine line maintenance equipment
- A strong work ethic and ability to work unsupervised or as part of a team and as an individual

Salary negotiations will be dependent on experience and will be reviewed after a successful qualifying period. Experience of working in the industry would be an advantage but not necessary.

Interested candidates are required to email their CV to: info@farmura.com - If you would like an informal discussion prior to applying please contact Gerald Orme on 07739 800 916 regarding this position, for further product information please visit our website www.farmura.com

Closing Date: 20th December 2014

Contact Details:

Tel: 01233 633 267
Email: sandfield_golf@yahoo.co.uk

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- CLEAN DRIVING / DRUG RECORD
- Must have at least NVQ 2 or one year of full time Turfgrass Education

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**FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:**

Mike O'Keefe, The Ohio Program
Telephone: 01-614-688-5663
Email: cv@keefe1381@gmail.com

www.ohioprogram.org/applyforaip.html

**MUST BE BETWEEN 18-29 YEARS old (due to visa requirements)**

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Contact Jill Rodham on 01347 833 812

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@BIGGALtd
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...

@DPSGOLF
Agronomic Services are delighted to announce we are now Education Supporters @BIGGALtd #greenkeeping

@DaveStewart93
Thank you @BIGGALtd for the post on your website! Means a lot! @bigga greenkeeper #gc highway #golf

@TurfProUK
Read how bookings are flooding in for @BIGGALtd’s ‘Continue To Learn’ at BTME in today’s Turf Pro Briefing http://bit.ly/1FYf4D9

@SkyCaddieSteve
Clubs, Pros & Coursemanagers please look out for the @SkyCaddie “link” for course changes via ThePGA & @BIGGALtd newsletters #appreciatehelp

@GavinSpeedie
2nd last green for drainage, rough management in the background! @GreenkeepingReel @BIGGALtd #busybusy #progress

@rlupton197
All set up for the @BIGGALtd South west, South Wales conference @TheToroCompany @tomofreemo @BIGGALtd doing our bit for sustainable golf #borehole @KingsdownGC

@CampeyTurfCare
All set up for our SportsTurfMachineryDemo at @CastleStuart @greenkeepers @CampeyMachinery btme_tgig @BIGGALtd

@johnnybach175
Really interesting day @BIGGALtd regional seminar @SomersetGCA looking forward to having a look around @SomCountySports

@mikeysharps
Sunrise at Heysham Golf Club

@GavinSpeedie

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www.baronessuk.com

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