

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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BIGGA roar with Rory

News from Wentworth inside

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TPC Sawgrass

Opportunity knocks

A key priority for our Association is to provide opportunities for personal and career development for greenkeepers of all ages and experience levels. In the last few years we have made substantial progress in this area and I'm thrilled that this month we are able to announce details of yet another fantastic member benefit brought to us by our friends at John Deere.

The TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme will see five deserving BIGGA members join the volunteer crew at the '5th Major', the TPC at Sawgrass next May. One member from each of our five Regions will be selected to work alongside greenkeepers from around the world at the iconic venue which features the world famous island green 17th hole. Followers of online industry blogs will have seen video footage of the agronomy team's operations at Sawgrass and have an idea of the treat that our members are in for. I'd like to publicly thank John Deere for bringing this brilliant opportunity to our membership.

This month sees the eyes of the golfing world turn to Royal Liverpool Golf Club for the Open Championship.

The season is really hotting up both literally and figuratively, and I'm really looking forward to seeing the how the event pans out. The Ryder Cup is not far away now and I'm sure the European captain, Paul McGinley, will have taken a great deal of heart from Martin Kaymer's commanding victory at Pinehurst in the US Open. The American players will be keen to strike back and it is encouraging to hear that Tiger Woods is in with a chance of being fit to compete at the venue where he won in such style eight years ago.

Links Manager Craig Gilholm and his team

have prepared the historic Hoylake course to provide a stern test for the world's finest players and along with many local volunteer greenkeepers and the BIGGA Support Team all is set fair for a great tournament.

As always with seaside golf the weather will be a determining factor and I must admit to a secret hope that the wind gets up for at least part of the week so that the course can really bare its teeth.

Conversely I am hoping for calm conditions and wall-to-wall sunshine at BIGGA's own National Championship later this year at the beautiful Liphook Golf Club in Hampshire.

Once again we are grateful to Kubota and Charterhouse for sponsoring the event and look forward to finding out who will succeed Gordon Sangster as BIGGA's champion golfer.

This month in GI we feature Liphook's Course Manager of nearly 20 years, David Murdoch MG, to hear how the course will set up in October (pages 20-23.)

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton
BIGGA Chief Executive

JULY 2014

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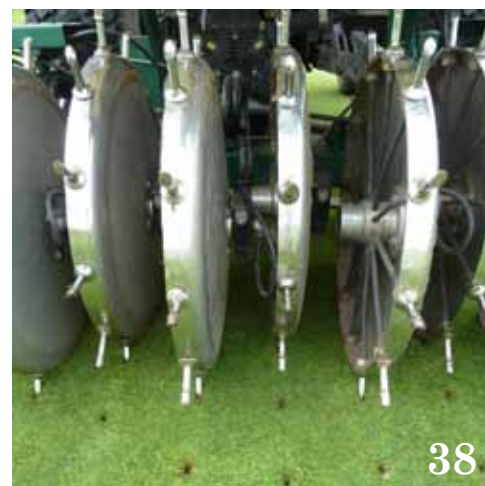
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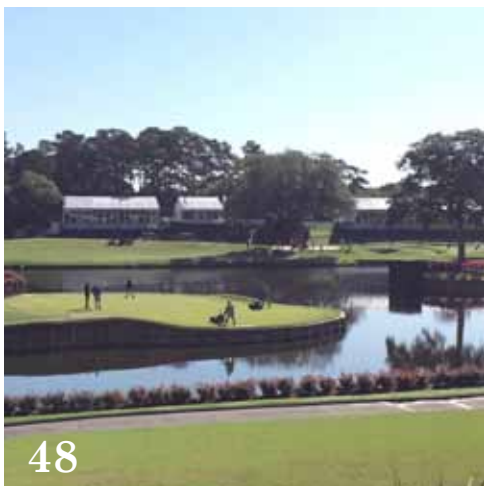
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Enter the tournament at Liphook Golf Club in October

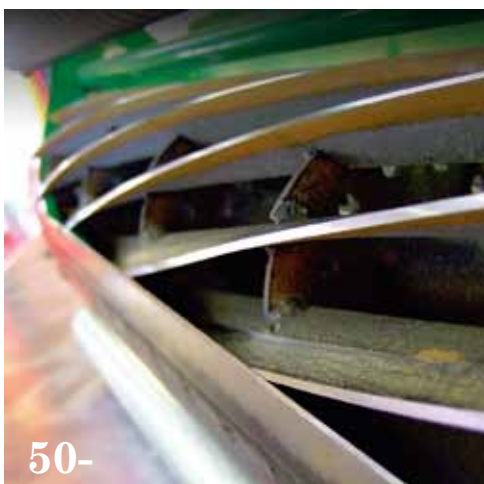




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The official monthly magazine of
**British and International
 Golf Greenkeepers Association**



Chairman's Word

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

Don't be shy to volunteer

The only place for me to start this month is at Wentworth. There's no doubt that volunteering helps your career, both from a technical point of view and through developing contacts, and nowhere was this more evident than when watching the work of the BIGGA Support Team at the BMW PGA Championship.

During the recent Board Meeting, Wentworth's Director of Golf Course and Grounds Kenny Mackay mentioned the fantastic efforts of the expanded BIGGA Support Team, and made it clear that the event would not have been such a success without them. In conditions which were mostly wet and cold, not to mention stressful, they excelled, and combined with the superb efforts of the home greenkeeping team they ensured things ran smoothly.

The full support team will hopefully be a fixture for future years, so keep an eye on Greenkeeper International and the BIGGA website for more volunteering opportunities. Certainly from the many hugely positive comments I heard from the team they had a very enjoyable and satisfying experience.

This leads on nicely to The Open Championship at Hoylake, and I'd like to personally wish Royal Liverpool Golf Club's Links Manager Craig Gilholm and his excellent team a very successful tournament. This is my first Open as Chairman and I'm thoroughly looking forward to it. Jim Croxton and I will be involved in various meetings with organisations from across the industry during the week and I'm expecting a very busy yet enjoyable week – as I'm sure the BIGGA Support Team are too. It is golf's greatest tournament and always a privilege to be part of.

Last month I was a proud man as Chippenham hosted the inaugural Rigby Taylor Team Challenge, and it was great to see representatives from the South West and South Wales Sections plus the GCMA in attendance. It was a real success, the weather was lovely despite a particularly wet build-up to the day, and it was played in a superb, competitive spirit with the South Wales Section emerging victorious,



New holes at Chippenham
photograph by Seb Cavilla

"I was a proud man as Chippenham hosted the inaugural Rigby Taylor Team Challenge"

well done all! Thanks to Rigby Taylor, and Mark Whiting in particular, for supporting this event. I look forward to the Challenge becoming one of the highlights in the Regional calendar.

The summer meeting of BIGGA's National Board of Management was very productive. We're continuing with the governance review as we concentrate all our attention on ensuring the Association meets the needs of the greenkeeping industry for many years to come.

We remain totally focused on serving the needs of the Association's members and I'm delighted we're in a position to take the important step of recruiting a fifth Regional Administrator.

The Board believes that engaging with members and providing events and services at a local level is crucial to the development of BIGGA so the opportunity to increase the resource at Regional level is an important step.

I did briefly mention the 'So You Want To Be Promoted' seminar held at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club last month but I wanted to expand on this. John Keenaghan and

I were delighted to present to several enthusiastic, engaging and talented greenkeepers – and we'll be presenting another later in the year. I can't stress enough how volunteering for a tournament – large or small – can open doors in your career.

Many of you will know one of my other passions in life away from greenkeeping is football, and consequently if I've been a little under the weather recently it's probably due to the relegation of my beloved Bristol Rovers from the Football League. My mood hasn't been helped by constant mickey taking from Chippenham Golf Club members who seem keen to revel in my team's demise. I've not been able to face renewing my season ticket as yet – maybe that will change as the new season approaches but I'm really not sure!

I'm continuing to pray for better weather, here's hoping July is dry and sunny for us all.

Contact details

Email Chris at coursemanager.chippenhamgolf@btconnect.com or contact him direct on 07817 294632

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



Gallagher Heath



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

JOHN DEERE DEAL LEADS TO TPC SAWGRASS CHANCE

BIGGA has confirmed John Deere as its latest BIGGA Partner – and as part of the deal five BIGGA members will be given the chance to travel to the States and work with the greenkeeping team at the unofficial ‘fifth major’, The Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass.

John Deere are a long-term supporter of the Association and join six other organisations in being awarded BIGGA Partner status.

The new TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme allows five BIGGA members to travel to the States and work on the course before and during the Players’ Championship in May 2015.

Applications will be via the BIGGA website and as part of the process, applicants will be asked to submit video applications before a panel from BIGGA and John Deere hold interviews across the UK later this year. One member from each of the Association’s five Regions will be selected.

The team will be announced in January giving the final five a chance to network at BTME 2015 ahead of the opportunity of a lifetime.

They will then travel to Florida in early May to join the home greenkeeping team and other volunteers from across the world.

“We have been supporting BIGGA’s educational activities for many years in a variety of ways, so we are very pleased to become an official BIGGA Partner and announce this exciting new membership opportunity,” said John Deere Limited’s turf division manager Chris Meacock.

“We believe this is an ideal way of continuing to contribute to an important area of the Association’s work.

“TPC Sawgrass is known as the home of The Players Championship, 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 BIGGA volunteers will get invaluable experience as a part of a 125+ member team involved in major tournament



preparation and organisation, as well as the opportunity to network with their peers.”

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton added: “We’re delighted to welcome John Deere as a BIGGA Partner. We’ve enjoyed a very close and productive relationship with them for several years and this reaffirms the level of commitment on both sides.

“In addition I’m particularly excited about the opportunity we are now able to offer five of our full members with John Deere’s backing.

“The chance to join the greenkeeping team at one of golf’s most iconic venues is an outstanding member benefit and career development opportunity and I look forward

to reviewing the many applications we will undoubtedly receive.”

The agreement has been confirmed just ahead of the John Deere Take Control Golf Roadshows which are heading to 17 courses across the UK and the Republic of Ireland this summer including Castletroy Golf Club and Selby Golf Club.

These events will be showcasing the company’s brand new range of golf course equipment. To attend places must be booked in advance with your John Deere dealer. For more info please visit:

www.deere.co.uk/wps/dcom/en_GB/industry/golf/learn_more/golf_roadshow/golf_roadshow_events



58 YEARS FOR PETE

Can anyone beat Peter Thompson's 58 years of service at Castlefields Golf Club?

80-year-old Peter volunteered to give one of the greenkeepers a hand at the course in Rastrick, West Yorkshire, in 1956.

This started a remarkable run of service at the six-hole, par three venue and Peter is still going strong.

He said: "I was born close to the course and my house now looks over it so it's been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I was a very keen young golfer and just asked one of the greenkeepers if they wanted some help and it all went from there."

Peter, an engineer by trade, gradually learnt the ropes

and has kept the role ever since. He was captain of the club in 1961, and has been a member of five clubs in the area over the years. He does have help from volunteers on the club's committee but has been the man responsible for the course for the entire 58 years. The course features six greens - but 14 tees and has a busy calendar with events held regularly.

He added: "I've got no plans to give up yet, for as long as I can still put one foot in front of the other I'll be here!"

Do you know of a greenkeeper who can beat Peter's 58 years at the same club?

If so, drop Steve Castle a line at steve.castle@bigga.co.uk

DOWNLOAD OUR POSTER

We've had an excellent response to our pitchmarks poster which was printed alongside last month's Greenkeeper International, with many members tweeting photos of the poster placed on club noticeboards up and down the country. The PDF is now available to be printed at any time.

Just visit www.bigga.org.uk, click on the 'Education' tab and scroll down to 'How to Repair a Pitchmark' on the left hand side.

This all came about due to a suggestion from BIGGA members - so let us know what else you would like to see featured in the magazine. Email Steve Castle - steve.castle@bigga.co.uk, or call him on 01347 833829.



NEW SCOTTISH WEBSITE

The new website for the BIGGA Scottish Region has been launched and can be found at: www.biggascottishregion.com

It contains news, a calendar of events, education details, history, contact details, information on the Scottish Patronage Scheme and much more from across Scotland's five Regions.

Sponsored by Golf Kings, it features upcoming events, the make up of the various committees, downloadable minutes, conference details and a calendar of events. If you have any views or have anything to be considered for inclusion please contact John on 07776 242120 or johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

GCMA v BIGGA MATCH AT LUNDIN



The players enjoyed glorious conditions for the annual match between BIGGA Scotland and their counterparts from GCMA.

Unfortunately the weather could not save the BIGGA team as they were unable to retain the trophy this year at Lundin Links, Fife. GCMA ran out victors by a score of four games to two with the team of Bob Meikle (Crail) and Shaun Anderson (Piperdam) and that of John Brown (Bearsden) and David McBride (Vale of Leven) only putting up strong resistance!

It was BIGGA's turn to host the event this year and our Scottish Chairman Andy O'Hara addressed both teams when play concluded. First, he thanked them for

taking part and then congratulated the club captain, secretary and staff at Lundin Links for providing an excellent venue for the match. However, Andy's main praise was reserved for his good friend Willie Swan, Head Greenkeeper at the club. All were in agreement that Willie and his team have done a great job with the course presentation.

This year, the team were sponsored by the William Tracey Group, Trade Management and Recycling Specialists with facilities across the central belt of Scotland. Steve MacLaughlan, Timber Manager, was present on the day and Andy warmly thanked him and the company for their valued support.

It was great that Steve was able to present a commemorative Quaich to Willie Swan on behalf of the association, was gracious in his praise of the competition and welcomed the opportunity for the William Tracey Group to be involved in the golf industry.

A new trophy was purchased this year to coincide with the amended format but unfortunately that went to the GCMA. Andy had to settle for picking up the "old" trophy as a consolation prize.

We look forward to doing battle next year at West Kilbride Golf Course and hopefully win the competition for the association again!

John Young



HENRY STEAD RETIRES

Welsh greenkeeping legend Henry Stead has retired after a varied career at courses across England and Wales.

Henry began his turf management days 48 years ago at Llantrisant & Pontyclun GC, with spells at Whitchurch, Pontypridd and Southerndown.

Henry said: "I spent three years at Chipping Sodbury

then moved up to East Anglia. Links courses are my true love so I went to Great Yarmouth & Caister Golf Club.

"After 14 years up there I thought it was time to come home so when Mike Thomas phoned me to come and build him a golf course I came home again to Wales.

"Now, 19 years later, it's time to let someone else listen

to the golfers telling him or her how to do their job - good luck with that one!

"To all of you I have had the pleasure of annoying thank you - and all of you I haven't met you've had a lucky escape."

There will be a leaving celebration for Henry at The Grove GC in North Cornelly on 26 July, 7pm.

HARVEY BROOKE'S BLOG

Harvey Brooke, greenkeeper at Redditch Golf Club, has one of the most humorous, informative and eye-catching blogs that GI has seen – and it's also led to him appearing on the local news!

Also, he's become so involved in the blog that he's also been researching Search Engine Optimization (SEO) to try and get more and more hits for his page.

His blog is split into sections detailing the work of the unsung heroes of the greenkeeping team, agronomic information, reviews of the latest apps and gadgets and a humorous section featuring jokes and Harvey's favourite YouTube clips.

It also contains information from Harvey's recent spell as a volunteer on BIGGA's Support Team at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth.

Harvey has been at Redditch for seven years and was asked by a committee member in January to put a blog together.

Harvey said: "To be totally honest at that time I didn't really know what a blog was or how it worked, let alone how to put one together."

"I had a look at several free blog and website makers and decided to have a go. I told the club secretary I would only do it if I could add my own spin and humour to it. If I wrote a blog just about the greens for a small club with a typically older member base then I knew I would probably only get about six people reading it, two of them being my nan and grandad."

Alongside his first blog post about bunker work, Harvey added a YouTube clip featuring David Coulthard catching a golf ball while driving a Mercedes.

"The lads started showing it around the club and it got off to a very good start, I put a feedback form on it and got encouraging feedback from a lot of members."

Feedback has included comments such as "one of the best blogs I've seen" plus "informative and funny" from across the UK and as far afield as Canada, North Carolina and China, showing what a wide audience a blog can reach.

Some of the local newspapers started reading Harvey's blog, and have recently written stories on him joining the support teams both at Wentworth and the upcoming



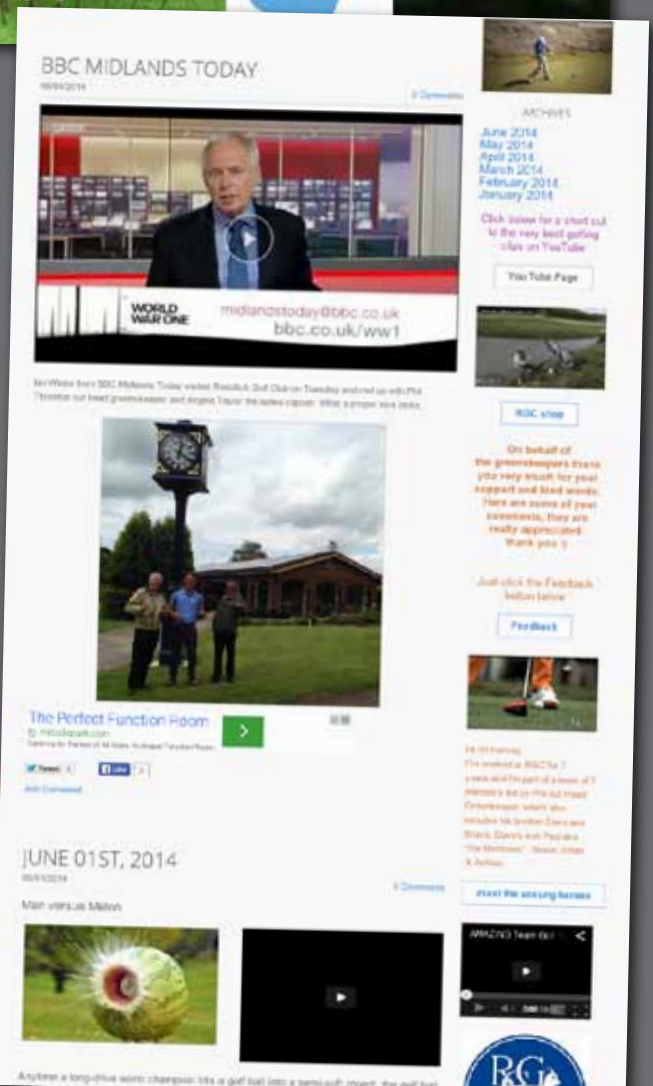
Open Championship. These stories mentioned the blog – and so his hit rate kept increasing.

Harvey added: "Local radio stations and BBC Midlands Today featured me and the blog - so I reckon it's time to start selling a bit of advertising!! Feedback now comes in daily from all over the world."

"The blog has gone from just one page to nine pages - and I try and learn something new each week. For example I've got a weather widget on the home page plus a separate weather page, with embedded music on it."

This led an intrigued Harvey to try and discover ways to get even more hits and this led him to look at Google stats to try and edge his blog on to the first page of the internet search engine. He's now educating himself in basic SEO to try and increase his hit rate.

Check out the blog at:
www.greenkeepersblog.com



BIRDS 'BLITZED' BY OPM SPRAY

When the Forestry Commission delivered its intention to eradicate oak processionary moth from Berkshire by aerially spraying Herridge's Copse near Pangbourne in May 2013 the foremost fear was for rare Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths).

It now appears a very common moth which feeds on oak foliage (green oak tortrix moth - *Tortrix viridana*) and the blue tit which relies on the abundant caterpillars to feed its nestlings were the major casualties. *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp *kurstaki* (BTK) [the bacterial insecticide used] will kill the larvae of any butterfly or moth present at the time of spraying if they subsequently feed on sprayed foliage.

Greenkeeper International first discussed the ecological implications of aerial spraying against OPM in April 2013. We pointed out that comparatively few British butterflies use oak as a food plant and that most of the moth species which do have larval periods later in the season, out of synch with OPM and aerial spraying.

Other Lepidoptera are only affected if spray lands on their specific food plants. Most spray droplets will be 'filtered out' by the oak canopy so forest floor plants like wild violets a major food plant of fritillary butterflies are largely unaffected. Modern aerial application technology should deliver well-targeted spray with minimal droplet drift. As such hedgerow plants like honeysuckle and larvae of the rare white admiral butterfly which feed on honeysuckle leaves should also escape largely unscathed.

FC's aerial spraying programme appears has been caught out by an altogether more 'bread and butter' scenario involving one of Britain's most common moths and best loved birds. Green oak tortrix caterpillars are the preferred and most important food source for nestlings of blue tits and great tits, two of Britain's most popular garden birds. Larval 'window' closely matches OPM egg hatch and therefore aerial spraying.

Natural England sanctioned aerial spraying in May 2013, provided FC carried out surveys to monitor any ecological fall out on butterflies, moths, birds and bats. This has come back to 'bite them' following signs of a significant reduction in successful blue tit breeding in Herridge's Copse.

Environmental monitoring during June 2013 starting several weeks after the twin aerial applications in May 2013 revealed a paucity of 'tit' family group activity, compared with that in the control (unsprayed) wood called Horn's Copse. The survey found eight nests in Herridge's Copse but subsequently only one family of blue tits, and three nests in Horns Copse but subsequently six to seven family groups. Indications are that insecticide may have killed large numbers of non-target caterpillars thus depriving



parent birds of a key food source to feed their nestlings which subsequently failed to survive.

The vast majority of droplets applied by aircraft are deposited on leaves in the upper tree canopy which in the case of Herridge's Copse is mainly oak trees. Similarly, there is a documented relationship between the nesting pattern of blue tits and great tits and the availability of food.

Other resident British woodland birds like blackbird, dunnock (hedge sparrow) and robin have three broods of five eggs each per season, starting as early as late February and continuing through spring and summer. Blue tits and great tits have one large single brood of 10 to 12 eggs during April/May to exploit the large populations green oak tortrix caterpillar present at this time and the preferred and most important food source for their young.

Prompted by the conservation lobby, the local media ran some hard hitting news stories. 'Oak processionary

moth spraying 'kills blue tits' said BBC Berkshire. 'Conservation charity blames aerial spraying for drop in blue tit numbers' claimed 'getreading' highlighting an interview with the invertebrates conservation trust 'Buglife'. Buglife's campaigns officer Vanessa Amaral-Rogers claimed the number of green oak tortrix moth caterpillars was eleven times lower in the treated woodland compared with the selected control (unsprayed) woodland (Horn's Copse) nearby.

Instead of eradicating OPM, FC appears to have 'blitzed' the breeding blue tit population by decimating the most important food source for their nestlings. In future, perhaps FC should look further afield for expertise and take the initiative by explaining the full implications of OPM, what they are doing, why they are doing it and the results and implications, before the story 'blows up in its face'.

Dr Terry Mabbett

ADVANCED TURF TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS IN ACTION

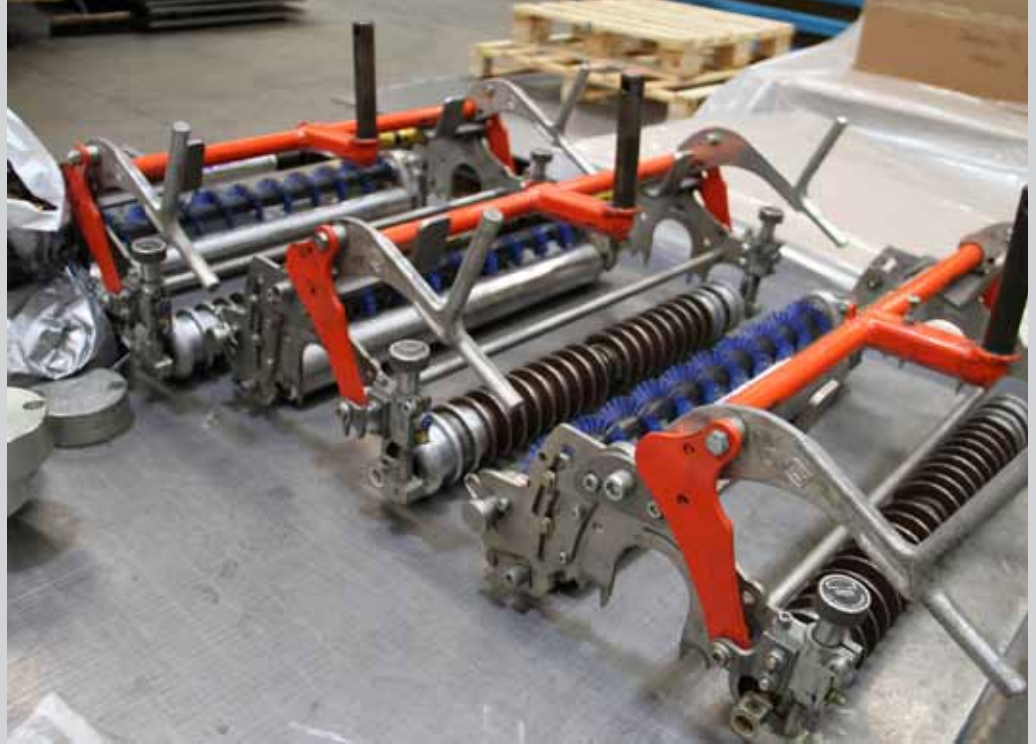
The Dore & Totley Golf Club, close to the home of Advanced Turf Technology (ATT) in Sheffield, was recently host to a group of press to see ATT's revolutionary INFiNiSystem™ in action.

The company's flagship product is the TMSystem™ developed some ten years ago. It is a product for triplex greens mowers to replace their cutting units with a range of SMART cassettes to enable differing maintenance activities to take place. The system can carry out aeration, brushing, de-thatching, scarifying, top dressing, grooming, levelling and mowing.

The drive behind the company and the products is MD, John Coleman. John's background is firmly in greenkeeping from being an award winning greenkeeper to consulting on courses. He has been influenced a lot by working with, and talking to, various Head Greenkeepers. For example, he found that every single course he worked on used different equipment and he thought it would be much easier to have one piece of equipment that would suit the needs of every course – hence the birth of the TMSystem™ for triplex greens mowers. From that it was a sensible step to develop it into a pedestrian unit, the INFiNiSystem™.

The ATT facility is based within its sister company AET (Advanced Engineering Technology) in Sheffield. Since a tie-up with The Grass Group as their selling arm, John has worked closely with Tim Merrell to refine the TMSystem™ by providing a cutting cassette for triplex's and developing the INFiNiSystem™ into a pedestrian unit to power the full range of cassettes.

The 22" INFiNiSystem™ started of life as the INFiNiCut™, a dedicated pedestrian mower. "You can't just design a new mower," says John, "but you can take one and improve on it. For example, we knew that greenkeepers didn't like the



idea of manually changing the cutting height so we invented something to make that easier – a patented Wrenchless height adjuster in 0.1mm/0.004" click increments. The unique floating head mechanism has a 'dynamic return' feature that is constantly trying to spread the weight of the machine evenly, even when on steep slopes."

With the inception of a pedestrian maintenance 'system', rather than just a mower, the means of powering the unit was altered and now sees the current product exceeding the original one. Power is produced from a dual source to deliver drive to both the traction drive and a cassette's DC brushless motor - either by a petrol engine via a 1.5kw generator, or a nominal 48V battery module. They can be quickly swapped, even on course, to suit the working environment. The hybrid configuration improves fuel efficiency whilst the battery drive reduces noise.

The 22" INFiNiSystem™ shares the same cassettes as the TMSystem™ for triplex mowers. There is a 26" version of the INFiNiSystem™ launched

recently with a similar range of SMART maintenance cassettes.

To see the products in action at the Dore & Totley Golf Club Tim Merrell, The Grass Group's MD, described how his team took to the road with trailers loaded with the 22" ATT INFiNiSystem™. "We have standardised on the 22" pedestrian model for demos because changing one cassette rather than three saves a lot of time. Whilst we carry all the SMART cassettes with us a typical demo will consist of using only three: We'll start with the SMARTUltraGroomer because it's something the client is unlikely to have seen before.

"This makes a huge difference to the surface and is an advancement on a verticutter- it's just jaw dropping! Greens consistency is what you want – you don't want greens changing from day to day so preventing a problem happening in the first place makes any issues much easier to deal with. This is a pro-active tool to prevent problems: like keeping puffiness in check – where shoot density increases leading to thatch;

minimising poa ingress and reducing organic matter to reduce plant stress. Then we'll fit the SMARTCut cassette and make a few passes. Lastly we bring the SMARTVibe vibration roller into play to truly level the surface. By that stage the client is hooked, especially when we use the battery power – with no noise the impact is unbelievable!"

Both John and Tim seem satisfied with where the products are today but they will no doubt be continually improving the designs.





Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

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.



CARNOUSTIE RAISE £1500 FOR BENEVOLENT FUND

The greenkeeping team at Carnoustie have boosted the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund by raising an amazing £1,500 through the team borrowing various tools and equipment.

John Philp, the previous Links Superintendent at the legendary course, joined other members of staff to launch the Carnoustie Staff Charity Fund in 2001.

The charity fund has gone from strength to strength and has continued after John's retirement, with many local and national charities benefitting from the team's generosity. They have organised raffles, quiz nights, race nights and auctions.

Now the Benevolent Fund has become the latest beneficiary with the team raising £1,500.

The Links ask staff to donate money to the charity when they borrowed equipment such as strimmers and flymos as well as grass seed and turf.

Carnoustie Links Superintendent Sandy Reid said: "We feel that this is an excellent cause to give to, the chance to help BIGGA aid greenkeepers and their families in hard times is a great idea.

"We are right behind BIGGA by supporting the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund."

BIGGA Learning & Development Manager Sami Strutt accepted the cheque from Craig Boath, Head Greenkeeper on the Championship Course, and the club's handyman Barry Irving, pictured above.

Craig said: "We previously raised money for one of our Irrigation Engineers who was diagnosed with cancer, and this helped support his wife and kids. So we know all about what the Benevolent Fund is trying to achieve.

"You don't have to be at a prestigious club to help, there are so many ways to raise money and just a few quid will make such a difference."

BIGGA General Manager Tracey Maddison added: "This is a fantastic gesture from the team at Carnoustie and we thank them for their terrific support. It's the perfect example of how a team can come together and contribute - the Fund is an ongoing initiative and we're keen for it to remain in people's thoughts.

"There are many ways you can do this from buying a green wristband at one of our many events to organising golf days and auctioning off souvenirs and memorabilia.

"Get in touch with us if you're looking for ideas on how to get involved, and also let us know what you've come up with so far!"

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far to the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund. Wristbands are available at events for a minimum donation of £2 and you can contribute in many other ways - please keep the support coming!



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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

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TM

L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

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

education and training, supported by our BIGGA Partners, BIGGA Education Supporters and Individual

Contributors – funding your future. Contact the L&D team at BIGGA House for more information.

FIELD GUIDE: TREES AND SHRUBS

Following on from the preview in June's GI into the Protected Species section of BIGGA's Field Guide, this month it's the turn of the Trees and Shrubs section.

The section has grown over the years (excuse the pun!) and now incorporates identification guides for 35 various trees and shrubs that can be found on the golf course. Here are two examples from the guide to whet your appetite.

Remember, the Field Guides are a benefit of membership and are FREE to all members. If you wish to claim your copy then contact us and it will be sent out to you.

Again one Education CPD credit is available for reading the article and completing the quiz.

Fagus sylvatica

Common species: Beech

Bark: Beech supports a generally smooth grey brown coloured bark.

Leaves: Elliptical and broadly ovate rounded base with long hairs on veins and on leaf axis.

Fruit: Produces fruits in hard brown cupules (beech nuts) 1.5-2.5cm splitting to release two nuts.

Identification: Large deciduous tree able to reach heights of 40m. In forest environments beech trees are likely to support long slender trunks with a narrow crowns. Individuals (standards) can produce canopies extending to 9m from the trunk. This tree in woodlands is easy to identify by the lack of any significant ground cover (beech is well adapted to light capture).

General: Large deciduous tree of conservation importance, the natural range runs from southern Sweden, through central Italy and France through and into southern England.



The roots of beech are generally shallow spreading outwards (rather than downwards). Beech normally live to around 150-200 years.

Conservation interest: Beech is an important tree for our native wildlife, although smooth barked its trunk and larger branches can support fissures that are often colonised by bats (summer roosting), deep crevices, holes etc. will support overwintering interest for bats.

The beech nuts are important for birds and rodents, the roots are normally infected with ecto-mycorrhizal fungi including Amanita, Boletus Cantharellus and Hebeloma. Many different species of fungi will assist in the decomposition of the dead-wood and leaves falling from beech.

Ericaceae

Common species: Heather - Bell-heather (*Erica cinerea*), cross-leaved heath (*E. tetralix*), ling (*Calluna vulgaris*), Dorset heath (*E. ciliaris*), Cornish heath (*E. vagrans*). Note: not all *Ericas* are cited here, this group also contains rhododendron and bilberry (*Vaccinium*) species.

Identification: Generally low growing evergreen shrubs with simple alternate or whorled leaves. The flowers show major variation. Bell-heather is native to Western Europe, it is a low shrub growing

to 15-60cm tall with fine needlelike leaves 4-8mm long arranged in whirls of 3.

The flowers are bell shaped, purple 4-7mm in mid to late summer. Cross-leaved heath supports small pink bell shaped drooping flowers borne in compact clusters at the end of its shoots the leaves are in whirls of 4. The flowers appear between June and October. Ling is a low growing perennial shrub growing to 20-50cm tall or rarely to 1m.

General: The heathers (*Ericaceae*), including all of the above, are primarily calcifuges (lime hating) thriving in acid soil. They are all dwarf shrubs. Rhododendron species can reach 3-4m in height. *Ericas* normally do not exceed 1m. Bilberry grows to around 600mm supporting bright green angle stems. Bilberry is an important component of moorland and heathland and can be found as part of the field layer in some acid oak/birch woodlands (partial tolerance to shade).

Conservation interest: All of the native *Ericas* are important to a wide variety of birds, insects, smaller mammals and reptiles. Now you've read the article why not get yourself a CPD credit. The closing date for the quiz is the 31st July after which we will add the CPD credit to your account.

CPD QUIZ

Earn 1 CPD credit for correctly answering these questions



1. What shape are the leaves on a Beech tree?
2. How high do Beech trees grow to?
3. What type of tree is a Beech?
4. How long do Beech trees live for?
5. Which animal benefits the most from the Beech all year round?
6. How many common species of heather would you see on a course?
7. How high does Bell-heather grow to?
8. What colour are the flowers on the Cross-leaved heath?
9. What does calcifuge mean?
10. Which other plant belongs to the *Ericas* family?

<http://goo.gl/RMSuo5>



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

The funding and assistance provided by BIGGA Partners and BIGGA Education Supporters underpins the Associations 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.

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L&D News

Next month
The Identification of
Golf Course Grasses





FIRST DELIVERY OF TRIMAX SNAKE

A new video has been released by specialist turf mower manufacturer, Trimax, showing its latest Snake roller rotary mower in action at Raglan Parc GC, Raglan, Monmouthshire.

The golf club is the first customer in the world to take delivery of the all-new, tractor-powered Snake mower, launched at BTME in Harrogate in January.

Accompanied by comments from Course Manager, Chris Rawlings, assistant greenkeeper, Sam Williams, and from Gareth Beck, grounds care manager with local Trimax dealer, Frank Sutton Ltd, the three-minute video focuses on the main operating features and benefits of the three-gang rotary turf mower.

The comments are supported by footage of the mower cutting both level and undulating

areas of semi-rough at Raglan Parc Golf Club.

The main reasons given in the video by Chris for selecting the Snake are its low maintenance requirements, ease of use and extremely competitive purchase price.

Since taking delivery, Chris and his greenkeeping team have been impressed also with the mower's quality of cut, its contour-hugging abilities and its cross-cut feature, which enables the mower's decks to be raised slightly above the ground without needing to disengage drive to the cutter blades.

As well as permitting cross-cutting of turf, the feature allows the mower to safely negotiate gravel roadways or paths and also get back to work quickly when turning at the end of a run.

R&K KENSETT LTD CLOSE

R&K Kensett Ltd, fine sportsturf specialists, and UK and Europe distributors of the Graden scarifier range of machines, have closed down and ceased to trade on June 13 2014.

Following the sad death of Keith Kensett in September, who was the driving force behind the company; Keith's wife Jane, and son's Richard and Joe are sad to confirm their decision to make preparations to bring R&K Kensett to an end.

Richard, Keith's son said; "The business remained successful after dad died; the business he built from nothing was a credit to him.

"This is largely down to our wonderful and reliable staff who have continued to work as tirelessly as they always have, and with the upmost professionalism. However, without dad's drive and passion, it's just not the same for us as a family, so we have decided that for us, it's time to call it a day. Thank you for your support over the years."

R&K Kensett will look to work closely with the new Graden distributor as and when they are appointed to ensure a smooth transition for their valued customers.

The company's maintenance and contracting contracts will be resumed by their existing and experienced staff, who will start up their own companies.



CHARTERHOUSE NEW DEAL

Charterhouse Turf Machinery have appointed Fraser C Robb as their new dealer for the Fife and Perth & Kinross areas of Scotland.

Fraser C Robb is a family-run business based in Drymen, established for 40 years, selling and servicing all types of

groundcare, agricultural and horticultural machinery.

Kenny Hunter, Commercial Sales Manager at Fraser C Robb commented on the appointment, "We have always tried to be at the leading edge of our industry and now with the wonderful Charterhouse

range of products this represents a giant leap for us and we are confident that many new friendships will be forged as a result of this partnership.

"Personally it is great to re-engage with Redexim as I sold their equipment in the Middle East 5 years ago."

COMPLETE FAIRWAY RENOVATION AT NAAS

Greenkeepers from all over Ireland turned out to see a dramatic transformation of a fairway at Naas Golf Course, County Kildare, using the Campey Koro Field Top Maker.

Almost 2,000 square metres of fairway was renovated. Thatch and other surface debris were removed from the turf down to a depth of 40mm using the Koro with Universe and Terraplane rotors. This was followed with sand spread with a Dakota 410 on a John Deere Gator. A Raycam recycling dresser re-incorporated all of the existing nutrients in the soil and a Shockwave 2.2m relieved any compaction to improve aeration.

David Behan, course superintendent explained why he has taken such a radical approach to turf maintenance "Only six years ago, koro-ing was considered a ground-breaking technique in sports turf management terms, now it's become standard practise for pitch renovation. I have watched with interest and have felt strongly that this is something that golf courses could really benefit from."

A recent article on the success of koro-ing on a Swiss course at Blumisberg Golf and Country Club undertaken by manager Ritchie Glynn, confirmed David's belief that this is the way forward for effective golf course renovation and course management.

"We have a 60-year-old fairway which suffers from severe thatch. We installed new drainage lines using a Shelton 650 which has alleviated the surface water and



improved the overall aeration and drainage, but I wanted to reclaim the quality of the playing surface."

David discussed possible options including koro-ing with Brian O'Shaughnessy, Product Specialist for Campey Turf Care. "By removing the thatch completely you are taking the fairway back to its original natural state," said Brian "We can then overseed into perfect growing conditions and create a new top quality fairway."

"For me, it's all about the results," said David, "We have gone ahead with an initial 2000 metres of fairway using the Koro FTM with Terraplane® rotor and in the space of a day it was completely renovated.

"It's now twelve days on and I am preparing to give the grass its first light cut. That is an impressive feat."

Finishing touches of the fairway renovation were completed with speed harrows and dragmats to create a perfect level surface for seeding.

Overseeding was done with the new Vredo 1.8m Super Compact, using its unique double disc system which ensures maximum germination.

"We have also used the Koro FTM with Universe® rotor on three additional strips of the practice area and I am looking forward to see how effective this proves to be in a few weeks' time."

FULFORD HEATH'S KUBOTA ADDITION

Kim Blake, Course Manager at Fulford Heath Golf Club, has this month added to his fleet of turf machines with the arrival of a new Kubota B3030 compact tractor, bolstering the club's prized range of Kubotas.

Located in Wythall, a few miles south of Birmingham, the beautifully presented parkland course is a quiet haven only a stones throw from the hustle and bustle of city life.

"The arrival of a new B3030 compact tractor with mounted deck and collector – supplied by local dealer Global Sales – is just the latest in a line of Kubota machines the club has acquired; the most recent being a W821-PRO walk-behind and a second RTV900 utility

vehicle, purchased in 2013 and 2012 respectively.

The B3030 is a valuable addition to the fleet and one that was chosen thanks, in part, to its impressive power capacity:

"I didn't want the expense of a mid range model but needed a compact that could do what we needed and deliver the same levels of power as a larger model; Kubota's B Series was the only one in its class that offered this," explains Kim.

Interestingly, one of the key determiners for Kim and his team was that the new compact be equipped with an air-conditioned cab.

Kubota was once again the only manufacturer that could meet these requirements.



BIGGA National Championship

Q&A



David Murdoch MG is Course Manager at Liphook in Hampshire. Steve Castle asked him what to expect at the National Championship, how he's dealt with challenges, and looks at his career



GI: What can players expect at Liphook?

DM: Liphook is a traditional Golf Club, one of the best courses in Hampshire. The course opened in 1923 and was soon recognised by the R&A as an exemplary inland heathland course and is also an early example of Strategic Design for golf courses.

We're currently rated at number 73 in Golf Monthly's Top 100 courses in the UK and number 1 in Hampshire.

By today's standards Liphook is not a long course having both an SSS and Par of 70, measuring just 6295 yards from the Championship tees. The course has five par 4 holes of over 400 yards and three par 5s.

Its tight fairways, lined with an abundance of heather, gorse and trees, put a premium on accuracy but its biggest defence are its greens, true and fast with subtle breaks and borrows.

The course is divided by the B2070 road – meaning road crossings from the 4th green to 5th tee and the 14th green to the 15th tee.

GI: What are the course's highlights for the players to look out for?

DM: Well here's what Ewen Murray, Sky Sports lead golf commentator, wrote on his blog after a visit last year:

"Returning after a gap of more than 30 years confirmed what a stunning golf course Liphook is. At 6300 yards, it's not long but its defence is the narrow and tight fairways along with the run-off areas that leave hugely difficult pitches and chips.

"Accuracy and touch is the premier requirement, distance means little.

"The greens were the best I had seen anywhere in this country at this time of the year (January) running at 10 on the stimpmeter.

"The green staff were hard at work re-laying some tees that had grown old. When the season officially gets underway in the spring, the members will be thrilled their course has been so well cared for during the dark winter.

"A cup of tea in the clubhouse and a chat ended our visit with a

promise that we will do it again in the near future."

The Golf Monthly description of the course in their magazine for top 100 UK courses in 2010 was as follows:

"No matter what time of the year you choose to play Liphook, you can rely on the course being presented in pristine condition. The greens here are consistently among the best you'll find anywhere in the UK.

"The course winds its way through the trees and heather that are the hallmark of this tranquil patch of Hampshire countryside.

"These features have been cleverly used to frame and protect each hole and while the course isn't long, the fast greens and well placed bunkers require a careful strategy. There are few more enjoyable settings for a day's golf."

GI: Describe the composition of the course from an agronomic perspective.

DM: The course is sandy, acidic heathland which is generally very good, free draining soil.

"However, these acidic soils can



suffer from podzolisation, forming iron pans, which can impede drainage in certain areas. The greens are a mixture of Poa and Bent and generally perform well throughout the year, however, they are pushed up greens and so therefore don't drain as freely as USGA specification greens.

We try our best to manage thatch levels and the greens are played on throughout the year in all conditions except snow – we don't use temporary greens.

"The fairways on the other hand overlay the indigenous sandy soil and generally drain really well - they are predominantly Bent and Fescue although we do have Poa and patches of Rye here and there.

GI: How did you cope with the wet winter?

DM: We coped reasonably well although it was very testing.

We were forced to close on five occasions including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

GI: What projects have you been working on recently and what are your future plans for the course?

DM: We have been very busy in recent years rebuilding tees and restructuring all of our bunkers to present a rugged heathland appearance.

We are also proactive in maintaining and developing our heathland and have big developments in the pipeline over the next few years

In 2010 we installed a wall to wall, state of the art Rainbird irrigation system – it seems to have rained ever since!

The Club's centenary is in nine years time and we are considering several big projects, which are top secret at the moment!

GI: What's the make up of your greenkeeping team?

We have a team of seven Greenkeepers including myself.

One of my team is a Greenkeeper/Mechanic and we divide his time accordingly.

At busy times he can call on experienced technicians from our machinery suppliers if necessary.

STAFF PHOTO (LEFT TO RIGHT): David Murdoch, Neil Jones, Al McDonald, Dan Burn, Reece Jones, Tim Howard, Eddy Oliver





GI: How did you get in to Greenkeeping and what qualifications do you have?

DM: I started in Greenkeeping in 1985 and have 20 Scotvec modules achieved at Elmwood College between 1986 and 1989. I have a HNC in Golf Course Management also achieved at Elmwood.

I have the NVQ assessors' awards D32 and D33 and Modern Apprentice Trainee supervision awards A22, C22 and C25. I possess PA1, PA2a and PA6a certificates of competence in the use of pesticides and NPTC 10, 16, 31A and 31B in use of chainsaws. I achieved the Master Greenkeeper Certificate in 2001.

GI: When did you join Liphook and which courses had you worked at previously?

DM: I joined Liphook in 1993 becoming Course Manager in '95. I previously worked at Durnikier Park in Fife during 1985 and 1986, Dunfermline Golf Club, Fife between '86 and '91 and Old Thorns Golf and Country Club in Hampshire between '91 and '93.

GI: What is your handicap?

DM: My current handicap is five, although it was two less than three years ago! That says everything!



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

Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

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

Name

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Golf Club

Payment method (please tick)

- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value **£90**
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Card number

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Start Date Expiry Date

Last 3 security digits

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature.....

Date

Or E-mail your details to:
rachael@bigga.co.uk
 Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

Deadline for entry is 5th September 2014.

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



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

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



St Andrews greenkeeper Kenny Mitchell emerged triumphant at Renfrew Golf Club to win the Scottish Golf Championship in a thrilling battle on the outskirts of Glasgow

King Kenny!



Kenny Mitchell shot a superb gross 71 in the Scottish Championship – but so did defending champion Gordon Sangster from Cathkin Braes. After a series of countbacks they still could not be separated – so it came down to their performance on the 336-yard par four 18th.

Here Kenny secured a par, and Gordon's bogey meant that the four handicapper triumphed by the narrowest of margins. He was understandably delighted, and his marvellous win ensured he qualified for the BIGGA National Championship in October.

He said: "It's hard to put into words winning this, it's just amazing. I'm going to make a week of it down at Liphook in October, take my wife and our dog.

"I played the front nine in level par, then started the back nine with a par and a birdie and thought if I could keep things together I might have a chance. I hit most of the fairways today which was fortunate as it made things a little bit easier. It was certainly tough, the course played quite long, but it worked out in the end.

"I thoroughly enjoyed myself, it's a well run tournament and thanks to everyone at BIGGA."

Other notable performances included Gregor MacKintosh from Turnberry, Brian Hillen from Drumpellier and Euan Grant from Turnberry who scooped the handicapper prizes.

The West of Scotland is wet at the best of times – but several downpours leading up to the event had caused concern for Course Manager Fraser Ross and his team, particularly with more rain forecast on the day of the Championship. Fortunately, but for a passing



ABOVE: Stuart Taylor, from Glasgow GC, tees off

MAIN LEFT: Kenny Mitchell with the trophy

BELOW: Club captain, Robert Strong with Fraser Ross and Andy O'Hara

shower mid-afternoon, dull but dry conditions prevailed. Preferred lies were played, but the 60-plus golfers praised the course as a tough but fair challenge.

The welcome from everyone at Renfrew was terrific, with the exception of a mischievous grey squirrel which was loitering around the front nine looking for morsels in golfers' bags. Fraser explained that the irascible rodent has been fed by kind-spirited golfers over the last few months, and was now greedily roaming the course looking for more. However, it soon disappeared when Glasgow GC's Stuart Taylor strode towards it waving his putter in a threatening fashion!

After a raffle, Scottish Chairman Andy O'Hara thanked the Region's Patrons, everyone at Renfrew, all the members who had travelled to play and the team from BIGGA HQ, as did Scottish Regional Adminis-

trator John Young. Club captain Robert Strong thanked all the players and Fraser for preparing an excellent course despite adverse weather leading up to the day.

Our special thanks as always must be reserved for the Patrons of the Scottish Region. Without your support, the 5 sections of the region would not be able to operate and provide education opportunities for our members.

SGGA Challenge Cup

Champion	Club	Gross Score
Kenny Mitchell	St Andrews	71*

*Better score on last hole

Ransomes Trophy (First Class)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Gregor MacKintosh	Paul Murphy	Paul Teviotdale	Gordon Sangster
Turnberry	Fife Golf Trust	Montrose Links	Cathkin Braes
75	75	73	71
4	4	1	2
71*	71	72	73*

Pattison Trophy (Second Class)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Brian Hillen	Billy Gibson	Gordon Kerr	Graeme Bolton
Drumpellier	Gibsons Greens	Mar Hall	G-West
80	76	82	84
9	5	9	9
71*	71	73	75

STRI Trophy (Third Class)

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Euan Grant	Dylan Meinan	Duncan Gray	Craig Hazley
Turnberry	Peterculter	Retired	Renfrew
84	89	91	109
15	15	14	28
69	74	77	81

*Better inward half

Individual Stableford (sponsored by Glenmuir)

Trophy	Category	Winner	Club	Score
Dick Aitken Trophy	Head Greenkeeper	Paul Murphy	Fife Golf Trust	36
M & M Trophy	Assistant / Apprentice	Paul Teviotdale	Montrose Links	37
SIGGA Trophy	Veteran	Duncan Gray	Retired	31
Patrons Shield	Patron	Kevin Brunton	Greentech	34

St Mungo Trophy (sponsored by Golf Kings)

Region	Score
West	140
Ayrshire	134
North	132
Central	128

Novelty Prizes (provided by Bunkered)

Hole	Winner	Prize
4th hole	Duncan Cairnie (Carnoustie)	Longest Drive (under 10)
7th hole	Kenny Mitchell (St Andrews)	Nearest the pin (under 10)
10th hole	Derek Scott (Scoonie)	Nearest the pin (11 plus)
15th hole	Ryan Brennan (Glasgow)	Longest Drive (11 plus)





Red Thread, Pink Patch and Rust

In his latest BASIS article, Sherriff Amenity's Graham Paul focuses on three diseases of turf which are prevalent in the summer months – if conditions are right

I'll start with Red Thread – probably the most common of the three in the UK and certainly an easy one to identify. Red thread produces ill-defined patches of bleached grass along with a pink mycelium that is sometimes visible in early morning dew.

Close examination with the naked eye will often reveal red needle-like structures attached to the leaf blades, which give rise to the name 'Red Thread'.

I first encountered Red Thread on turf during the late 1970s whilst involved in trials with a fungicide

product called Rovral Green. Then the disease was referred to as 'Corticium Disease', a reference to the fungal species that caused it – *Corticium fuciforme*. The genus *Corticium* was established by Persoon in 1794 for fungi that have "smooth, effused fruit bodies". In recent years the academics have tinkered with the classification; the same culprit is now known as *Laetisaria fuciformis*. Mycologists believe the disease occurs in two distinct stages; the first produces pink mycelium in clumps that are usually found where two blades of infected grass meet. The second



References: Stalpers, J.A.; Loerakker, W.M. 1982. *Laetisaria* and *Limonomyces* species (*Corticaceae*) causing pink diseases in turf grasses. *Canadian Journal of Botany*. 60(5):529-537
<http://media.pitchcare.com/L/SICWMY15gj.jpg>

stage gives rise to thin red needles, a form of sclerotia known as 'stromata*' that enables the fungus to survive adverse conditions, such as drought and low temperatures. (*Not to be confused with the leaf organs called stomata) When favourable conditions return, the stromata germinate producing invasive mycelium that enters the new host plant through the stromata on the leaf surface. Stromata can remain viable in the soil for two years.

In 1982 a paper was published in the *Canadian Journal of Botany* by J.A Stalpers & W.M Loerakker



announcing that the disease 'Pink Patch' had been isolated from samples of Red Thread affected grass. Pink Patch is caused by *Limonomyces roseipellis* and was previously thought to be part of the Red Thread disease. Current thinking is that Pink Patch can occur on its own or in a complex with Red Thread. Pink Patch spreads much more slowly than Red Thread, is less severe, and does not produce cottony flocks of mycelium or the stromata that are a means of survival; instead, individual leaves become covered with a pink, gelatinous mycelium that can survive for long periods on plant debris.

Both Red Thread and Pink Patch are caused by fungi belonging to the Basidiomycota, a taxonomic division within the kingdom Fungi comprising some 30,000 species that produce spores from a basidium (a club-like structure found in Basidiomycete fungi, where the spores are produced and held prior to dispersal.) This large phylum contains the cap (mushroom) producing fungi – most notably the fairy rings that we see on turf, as well as Grey Snow Mould, Thatch Fungus (Superficial Fairy Ring), rusts and smuts.

Red Thread and Pink Patch both occur in similar conditions of slow grass growth that is usually the result of low soil fertility, especially

soils that lack nitrogen. They are favoured by warm moist conditions especially in summer and early autumn but the disease can persist into mild winters. We often see outbreaks of Red Thread on turf after prolonged showery weather. On sandy soils this may be the result of persistent rain diluting or just moving the nitrogen away from the roots. On heavier soils it may be the result of waterlogging causing a depression in grass growth vigour.

Many greenkeepers and groundsman will be reassured by the odd patch of Red Thread in the early autumn, as it indicates that the soils are not too rich in nitrogen, which can trigger an attack of Fusarium (Microdochium Patch).

Most grass species are susceptible to Red Thread and Pink Patch, especially Red Fescue and Perennial Ryegrass. Although disfiguring to the appearance of turf, these diseases rarely kill the grass, which can usually be returned to good health following the application of appropriate control measures.

Sometimes, all that is required is a thorough programme of aeration to release nutrients locked up in the soil by anaerobic conditions. The application of a good quality seaweed extract or other bio-stimulant to promote strong root development can also help to discourage these diseases. Improving the nutritional





SELF ASSESSMENT

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

1) The red needles that typify the disease Red Thread are a type of fruiting body known as: -

- a) Sclerotinia
- b) Stomata
- c) Stromata
- d) Stoma

2) Which of the following turf diseases are caused by fungi from the same phylum as Red Thread (more than one may apply)

- a) Microdochium Patch
- b) Grey Snow Mould
- c) Type 2 Fairy Ring
- d) Dollar Spot

3) Which of the following factors will encourage Red Thread?

- a) High levels of magnesium
- b) Poorly nourished soils
- c) High nitrogen in the autumn
- d) severe drought

4) The resting spores of rust diseases that occur late in the year are called: -

- a) uredospore
- b) clamydospores
- c) Pycniospores
- d) teleutospores

5) Red thread, Pink Patch and rust diseases are caused by fungi belonging to the phylum

- a) Basidiomycota
- b) Ascomycota
- c) Blastocladiomycota
- d) Glomeromycota



ABOVE: From a distance rust can appear as a patch of stressed turf

state of the soil by careful application of a nitrogenous fertiliser is often prescribed as a remedy for Red Thread but beware of putting on too much nitrogen during the critical period at the end of summer, when it is all too easy to tip the balance in favour of soft growth that may bring on an outbreak of Microdochium Patch.

Where Red Thread occurs on a regular basis, consider using cultivars of grasses that have been bred for greater resistance to the disease. The British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB) produce a booklet each year titled "Turfgrass Seed", based on the grass seed trials conducted at the STRI in Bingley, West Yorkshire.

The tables in this booklet give scores on resistance to Red Thread for many of the grass species tested, including all of the most susceptible ones such as Red Fescue and Perennial Ryegrass. The booklet can be obtained from most amenity distributors selling grass seed or as a pdf download from the internet (Search: 'Turfgrass Seed 2014').

Chemical control can be achieved by applying an appropriate fungicide but I always ask customers to think long and hard before using one for Red Thread, when cultural measures such as those described above will usually bring the problem under control. Every application of fungicide has some effect on the balance of microorganisms in the soil, despite what some

manufacturers may claim about "products being harmless to beneficial microbes". For some disease problems there is no alternative to the prudent use of a fungicide spray but where the pathogen doesn't usually kill the grass and other measures are available, then we should show restraint.

Rusts

The second part of this article involves a condition we refer to as rust, which can be caused by a number of different fungi. Rusts infect grass producing large quantities of spores, varying in colour from yellow through orange to dark brown, depending on the fungal species involved.

Rust is not a common problem on UK turf because it develops in response to unusual weather patterns.

BELOW: Red Thread taken by the author on a binocular microscope many years ago!



However, when it does occur rust can spoil the appearance of the sward and large numbers of spores are picked up on footwear, clothing and on sports equipment and maintenance machinery.

Like Red Thread and Pink Patch, Rusts are also members of the phylum Basidiomycota. Subtle differences between the many species of rust fungi make it difficult to generalise the life cycle. However, conditions that favour development of rust are the same; grass whose growth is slow due to poor nutrition and drought stress are prone to rust.

After the initial infection, the symptoms appear as yellow spots or flecks on the stem and leaf. As the disease develops, these spots increase in size, eventually producing raised blisters (sometimes referred to as 'pustules'), which rupture as they mature and release spores.

Depending on the fungal species involved, the pustules may be scattered at random on the leaf or stem or they can be arranged in lines. As the disease gets further into the autumn, the orange or brown rust spores are replaced by less conspicuous black resting spores called teleutospores.

The worst outbreaks of rust disease occur on stressed, poorly

nourished turf. Rusts are most noticeable in long grass such as golf rough and semi-rough areas. They are usually seen after long spells of warm weather during the summer and autumn. Other factors that are likely to encourage an attack of rust include; soil compaction, excessive shading by overhanging trees and hedgerows and periods of prolonged drought.

A programme of cultural measures to reduce the possibility of rust disease developing will need to address these influencing factors; ensuring adequate nutrition throughout the summer period and providing supplementary irrigation, where possible, to prevent drought stress.

Where it is practical, clipping removal can reduce the level of spores available to prolong the infection and so speed up recovery. In areas where rust is a recurring problem, consider overseeding with cultivars that are less susceptible to rust – some of these are also listed in the BSPB booklet "Turfgrass Seed".

A few fungicides available for managed amenity grass now have recommendations for the control of rust diseases and these should be included as part of an integrated management programme where the cost can be justified.



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BIGGA defeats wet weather at Wentworth

BIGGA's largest ever support team headed to Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship – and played a huge part in ensuring the tournament was a success.



Members of the Wentworth greenkeeping team with Rory McIlroy

BIGGA's largest ever support team headed to Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship – and played a huge part in ensuring the tournament was a success.

For the first time, the team raked for matches on all four days – and their skills were really tested as repeated downpours and thunderstorms led to several suspensions of play and delayed starts.

Their hard work, dedication and professionalism was rewarded with a much sunnier Sunday and some dramatic golf as Rory McIlroy came from seven shots behind to claim the title with a superb 66.

The team then posed with the Northern Irishman on the 18th alongside Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Course and Grounds at Wentworth.

Kenny said: "The BIGGA team were a fantastic support to the Wentworth greenkeeping team during the BMW Championship.

"Without them we would have been extremely hard pushed to have got the golf going on the Saturday.

"A very big thank you to the Wentworth team and the BIGGA team who helped to ensure the golf course was in top condition for the tournament."

Storms on the Thursday which suspended play meant some members of the BIGGA Support Team were required to be on the course at 4.30am on Friday morning to clear debris ahead of the 7am start.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA Chief Executive, said: "We are grateful to all the volunteer greenkeepers who gave up their time to support the tournament.

"It is a credit to this industry to see so many qualified and experienced greenkeepers willingly volunteering their services this way.

"It was a great team effort all round and played a huge part in ensuring that the paying and watching public were able to witness such an enthralling tournament."



"What a fantastic experience. It was great to work alongside the pros and network with the rest of the team – thank you BIGGA for the opportunity."
Luke Elgie, Rushmore Golf Club



"This was my first year helping at the BMW PGA and it was a great experience, a real privilege to walk the course with the pros. The team at Wentworth did a great job on the course."
Sam Brennan, Old Fold Manor Golf Club



Photos by Rachael Duffy



“Thank you to BIGGA for this past week and the opportunity to help out at Wentworth in the team and the early morning support team. I had a fantastic time despite all the dreadful conditions and would love to do it again.”

Andrew Weeks, Hockley Golf Club



“It was another great week of greenkeepers working together and for each other. The early morning prep team really had their work cut out with the weather, especially on Saturday when they were needed to rake several times due to the rain, well done guys.

“We all went out with different groups of players to rake bunkers and all came back with different stories. On Sunday I got a great pairing. A young player from Hertfordshire called Tom Lewis was partnering one of my heroes – Miguel Angel Jimenez. It was all going so well, the weather was fantastic, both golfers were playing quite well, and my wife and son were in the crowd.

“This is when my nightmare began. I saw that Jimenez had dropped his scorecard but as I walked over to pick it up, I managed to bump into my hero and trod on his hand and scorecard as he went to pick it up!

“I apologised and he did forgive me and gave my son Jay a signed ball. I wanted to make a good impression on him but didn't expect it to be stud marks on his hand...

“At the end of play on Sunday we had our photos taken with Rory, a worthy winner, and so ended a great week.

“Thanks to everyone at BIGGA, particularly Rachael for organizing everything and everybody, and to Clive who checked us in and out like a Squadron Leader!”

Tony Bartram, greenkeeper at The Richmond GC



“I've been volunteering for the BMW PGA Championship for a number of years now and it is one of the best experiences for a greenkeeper. You get to meet a lot of other greenkeepers and make many friends. It's a real insight into how a big event is run and you can take many things away with you that can help on your own course and to further your career.

“It's good to see the volunteers getting on so well and the stories that are shared throughout the week. To be able to walk inside the ropes and take in both the golf and the immaculate course is a real privilege and I would recommend it to anyone.”

Phil Slater, West Herts Golf Club





BIGGA Wentworth Support Team 2014



...roar with Rory

Photo by Arnold Phipps-Jones

**Enter your photography now
- before Friday 18 July 2014**

In the picture

How you can win an iPad in our revamped Photography Competition

**Win
an
iPad**

BIGGA members can win an iPad in this year's Photographic Competition – and for the first time you can submit smartphone images.

Many BIGGA members take stunning course photos on their mobiles – and these entries are now encouraged as we move to producing a desktop calendar for the first time.

We'll also be giving members the chance to pick the winners.

A panel at BIGGA House will whittle the entries down to the best 24, then you will be able to pick your favourite through a survey on our website.

The 12 leading entries will be included in the calendar and the winning image will win an iPad, plus a large framed version of their image.

We continue to welcome photos taken on digital cameras. The images will be displayed at a 16:9 ratio.

If you are taking your shot on a mobile phone, please ensure it's taken on the highest resolution setting.

To enter, please send your images to comps@bigga.co.uk with 'BIGGA Photo Comp 2014' in the subject field.

Please include your name, the club you work at and your membership number.

Also, please state which course your photo was taken at to allow your picture to be considered. Entries are limited at five per person.

The closing date for entries is Friday 18 July 2014.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1 Open to BIGGA members only.
- 2 Photos of the course members work at, or a course they have visited, will be considered. Entries will only be considered if the entrant states what course the photograph shows.
- 4 Each entrant is limited to a maximum of 5 entries ie 5 different photographs
- 5 All photography entered may be used in a variety of publications.
- 6 Images to be high resolution and at 16:9 landscape (actual print size 172mm wide x 100mm high at 300dpi). Only images taken with a three megapixel camera or higher will be considered.
- 7 Entries are via email to comps@bigga.co.uk with transfer methods advised for large files. "BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2014" to be listed in the subject header.
- 8 The best 24 images will be provided for members to give their views on via an online survey. The survey will be linked to through the BIGGA website and will be open to votes within the Members' Area only. The leading 12 will feature in the 2015 BIGGA calendar.
- 9 The winning entry will receive an iPad and a framed copy of their shot.
- 10 BIGGA reserves the right to reject any entry if it is considered inappropriate.
- 11 The closing date for the competition is Friday 18 July 2014.

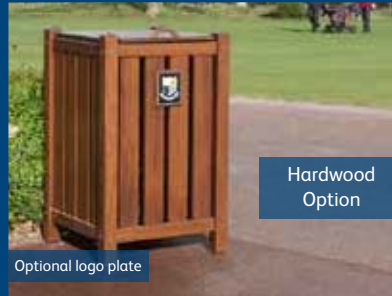


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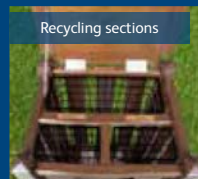


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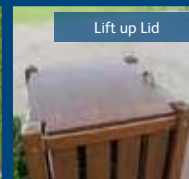


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TM

Hart attack



Hart Common Golf Club has been under threat from plant parasitic nematodes, so Dr Terry Mabbett headed to Wigan to find out how the club has employed revolutionary tactics to deal with the attack

Hart Common Golf Course at the edge of Bolton Metropolitan Borough and wedged between Bolton and Wigan is a classic case of how to turn adversity into advantage. Peter Roberts ran a thriving dairy farm at this very spot but he 'upped' and converted his 170 acre holding into a golf course in 1994.

Five years ago high infestations of plant parasitic nematodes (PPNs) started to debilitate the turf.

Hart Common not only remedied the problem but turned adversity into advantage by developing another dimension to the business.

Hart Common now runs a successful contracting business managing nematode infestations in

turf for the wider professional turf and amenity sectors.

The entire business has been kept in the family. Peter's son Richard Roberts is head greenkeeper at Hart Common and runs the contracting side of the business. Peter's three daughters also work at Hart Common Golf Course. Twin sisters Catherine and Claire Roberts are greenkeepers while Janet Smith (nee Roberts) runs the clubhouse and bar. Catherine Roberts plays off +3 and represents Lancashire Ladies.

Getting on top of PPN's at Hart Common

Greenkeeper International spent a day at Hart Common to find out more about the business and especially the formulation and

equipment used to manage nematodes at Hart Common and outside, including other golf courses and high profile football clubs in the Barclay's Premier League.

PPN's whether in agriculture or amenity have always been difficult to identify.

These microscopic roundworms are invisible to the the naked eye while debilitating effects caused by root feeding show up as a wide variety of amorphous and difficult to define symptoms, and not unlike those caused by fungal pathogens and plant nutrient deficiencies.

When Richard Roberts first noticed symptoms and a general malaise on the greens he tried all obvious remedies including complete fertiliser programmes of water soluble liquid and granular



ABOVE: Close-up on turf injection with the Liquiject 760 at Hart Common.

RIGHT: Close up on the SpikeWheel™ technology



The Liquiject system injects liquid formulations precisely and accurately down into the root zone with a minimum of turf disturbance.



Liquiject system is based on SpikeWheel™ technology. Head greenkeeper Richard Roberts in the picture.

formulations but with no positive response from the turf.

He explained how the unpredictable timing of symptoms and distinctly patchy effects, often on a single green, simply add to the confusion for greenkeepers unfamiliar with PPN's. Richard described one instance where "a newly seeded green was coming through nicely when a large part suddenly died off."

PPN's are a hard nut to crack

With inkling of what could be afoot under the turf, Richard called in Dr Colin Fleming a PPN expert from Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute AFBI in Northern Ireland. He confirmed Richard's suspicions by taking a series of samples taken from affected greens and analysing them for different species and numbers of PPN's.

Colin explained how a significant part of the identification problem comes down to the large number of different types each with its own 'modus operandum' on turf grass as well as different responses to nematode invasion and feeding shown by different turf grass species.

Moreover, the general health of the turf has a marked effect. Stressed out turf is generally more susceptible to nematode invasion and less able to tolerate and resist its effects. Stressed out turf will react to PPN's at much lower thresholds. And not to forget soil composition and structure especially in the root zone, and its effect on water holding capacity and therefore the motil-

ity and mobility of the free living juvenile nematode stages present in soil water.

Identifying PPN's is one thing but managing them is another. Nematode infestations, whether affecting potatoes, tobacco or turf grass, are notoriously difficult to deal with. Over the years a number of dedicated chemical nematicides and soil insecticides with activity against nematodes have been designed and developed for agriculture. Some have since been banned for environmental and operator safety reasons.

There are no chemicals registered and approved for use as nematicides in the sports turf and amenity sector. Biological control products demand more exacting soil temperature and moisture requirements for optimum activity against PPN's.

Short window

The window of opportunity for suppression of nematodes is short. As Richard says: "There is little that can be done to the egg stage or at the end of the cycle when adult nematodes are feeding inside the root tissues.

This leaves the free-living juvenile stages as the only real opportunity to break the cycle and manage the population."

Nevertheless he has hit on a nutrient based formulation with an established record of nematode suppression in agriculture. The product also contains organic substances which work in tandem with nutrients to deliver soil condition-



ing and biostimulation effects. This together with a 'straight' enhancement in plant nutrition appears to repress nematode activity and buttress grass plant resilience.

Delivery systems (formulations) whether of pesticides, plant nutrients, biostimulants or soil amendment products are only as good and effective as the technique and equipment used to apply them. Richard Roberts has located a novel piece of machinery tailor-made for 'knocking back' nematodes in sports turf.

Delivery system and application

Net result is a nematode management package comprising a liquid formulation of chelated nutrients (Verdant Defend) supplied by a company in East Anglia and 'injected' below the turf surface by a tractor mounted applicator called Liquiject™, all the way from Oregon in North America.

The Verdant Defend range of formulations from Eco-Nova Ltd at Kings Lynn in Norfolk is described as a bio-fertiliser of essential plant nutrients combined with a range of organic compounds including organic acids, lipids, polypeptides and acetal, ketal, lactol and furan compounds.

Verdant Defend is manufactured by building a matrix to hold minerals, organic substances and clay in bio-organic chelates, says the company.

In vitro (laboratory) trials carried out at AFBI demonstrated a 92 per cent reduction in the number of nematodes using 50:1 dilution which is the concentration applied to turf at Hart Common.

'Liquiject' of Helix, Oregon, USA says their system is based on pioneering spike-wheel technology for the sub-surface injection of liquid formulations.

SpikeWheel™ Technology provides fast, even and safe injection with a minimum of turf disturbance, irrespective of whether the turf is firm, soft, near water sources or with hydrophobic problems, claims the company.

Liquids are injected sub-surface and sufficiently deep below the thatch and accompanying organic matter accumulation.

Each Injector Spike is machined from corrosion resistant premium grade stainless steel and bolted on to the Liquiject SpikeWheel for easy maintenance.

A chrome cast alloy is added to each injector spike for harder wearing and a longer working life.



Hands-on at Hart Common

"We can inject the whole product directly through the surface to approximately 1.75 inches which in most cases will be well under any thatch or organic matter build-up. We can also inject liquid considerably deeper to 3-4 inches below the soil surface," says Richard.

Hart Common has the 'Liquiject 760' providing 20 to 60 psi pressure generated and supplied by Hypro Roller Pump on a 540 rpm PTO (power take off) drive. "Using the 50:1 dilution applied at 10 litres/ha, I can cover the 18 greens (1.5 ha) at Hart Common for just £250 in material cost" says Richard.

Richard Roberts said research conducted at ABFI pin-points spring and autumn as the two peak times for the hatching of juvenile free living nematodes from the egg stage. "I make two applications in spring spaced 14 days apart and two more in autumn (October-November) also using a 14-day interval.

"We are aiming to break the nematode life cycle" said Richard, "with timing and frequency very much down to trial and error, and experience." A lot clearly depends



MAIN ABOVE: This sizable and deep water feature was simply a persistent wet patch in a cow field when the land was farmed

INSET ABOVE: Wild orchids grow as water margin plants around many of the water features on Hart Common golf course

on soil conditions. Warm wet conditions will accelerate egg hatch and facilitate movement of the free-living juvenile stages through the soil. Treatment may be required as early as February.

Richard's attitude and policy to PPN's is 'once bitten twice shy' so he very much errs on the side of caution. "Having experienced so much damage in the past I now play safe," says Richard, adding how he keeps a watchful eye on the weather and not only in relation to nematode activity."

This is a high rainfall area and I take full advantage of that by synchronising treatment with on-going rainfall to ensure this water soluble product gets a fast passage down to the root zone".

Heavy rain was threatened that evening for Hart Common but the sun shone as Richard demonstrated his Liquiject 760 on one of the club's practice greens.

The machinery does just what it says in the brochure, with precise accurate and firm delivery of liquid formulations deep into the root zone, the unswerving lines of neat holes left in its wake testimony to its action.

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Referring to his contract work Richard said “by the time I am called out to deal with PPN infestations symptoms are already well set in. This means adult nematodes are feeding inside the root tissues.” He prefers to apply Verdant Defend as a stand-alone treatment although one football club client asks him to apply the product with seaweed based formulations.

Nematode management is not the only job Richard carries out for clients. “Worms and weeds are additional targets using our Toro Multipro sprayer” he said, while pointing to the much wider range of equipment in the shed, a Vertidrain, Shockwave, an Air 2 G2 machine and the recently purchased Vredo Seed Drill all used for contract work.

“There’s no point in having machinery stood in the shed.

“We are now distributing Verdant defend and Eco Nova fertilisers for amenity and agricultural use, respectively,” he said.

Hart Common Golf Course

Hart Common is a neat and well-managed golf course. As Peter Roberts said:

“Wigan is clearly not an affluent area, so fees and prices must reflect this whether you are talking about

club membership or pay and play.” Hart Common has a relatively small membership of around 150 but a large ‘pay and play clientele.

What Hart Common does is clearly working well for its customers. Golfshake.com has Hart Common ranked ‘Number 3’ for the UK in the ‘Under £20 Category’. “And that high ranking is based on the average of a very high number of reviews for us compared to other venues,” said Richard.

Compared with other courses ‘carved out’ of farmland Hart Common appears relatively short on mature trees. Richard said there were few mature trees and hedgerows on the original farmland but that a concerted tree planting programme started in 1994 was coming to fruition.

This is clearly fertile land in a high rainfall area with correspondingly clean green and fast growing turf, and nothing less than you would expect from 170 acres that once supported 140 high yielding Fresian cows.

What did catch my eye was the wealth of natural looking water sources and features.

Peter Roberts had already given me a potted history of the area, explaining how Hart Common was at the heart of the old Lancashire

One of the many natural looking water features on Hart Common golf course

Coalfield and how after mining activities ceased the water table rose.

Richard Roberts pointed out a particular water feature now a sizable and deep pond fringed with ‘yellow flags’ (wild iris) that was once just a wet patch in a cow field.

“We do not have a set policy for conservation but are well aware of it. We leave the out-of-play areas and new woodland uncut to provide cover for birds and small mammals and have installed several deer feeders around the course.

“We also have many log piles dotted about. However, the course management is obviously doing the right things because I saw superb purple orchids (provisionally identified by orchid expert Dr Roderick Robinson as hybrid species between Northern Marsh Orchid and Southern Marsh Orchid) growing as water-margin plants around these natural looking ponds.

“The wild iris and purple orchids are growing around almost all of the 23 ponds on our course,” said Richard.

My only previous contact with Wigan is through that famous book but I am sure George Orwell would have been as impressed as I was with Hart Common and in turning adversity to advantage.

about the author



Dr Terry Mabbett

Dr Terry Mabbett is a disease, pest and weed control specialist with forty years international experience covering research, advisory and journalism. His current fields of focus are professional turf and alien insect pests and pathogens of Britain’s native and naturalised trees.



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Wey to go

Weybrook Park GC in Hampshire are extending their 18 hole course as part of an ambitious 'in-house' project. Laurence Pithie found out more about the club's development plans



Originally a nine-hole course was located in the grounds of Basingstoke District hospital before the land was required for housing. In 1992 the members formed Weybrook Park GC and after two periods of construction and development, an 18 hole course was produced on adjacent land with the added benefit of a 125 year lease.

The layout was fully opened in 1997 with plans available for a further nine holes. However, it was 2004 when club member Sandy Burrell prepared detailed layouts for nine new holes, submitted them

to the Council and they were duly accepted at the first attempt, that the project become a reality. The approval, being somewhat of a rarity nowadays, was followed by a successful EGM in 2005 at which the members voted in favour.

At this stage Creative Golf Designs were appointed to review the layout and to produce detailed construction drawings. The planning permission contained some significant conditions relating to archaeology with restrictions on the amount of excavation allowed into the original ground, meaning that mounding and shaping of the holes on generally flat fields, needed to

about the author



Laurence Pithie MG

Laurence runs his own training and consultancy company, Turf Master One Ltd, and is grateful to Martin, Jamie and Sandy at Weybrook Park GC for their support in producing this article.

be created by the importation of inert soil. Work finally commenced in 2007 with the provision of a full spec driving range and practice area.

After two years of construction, the first three holes were built, grown in and opened for play in 2010, while three holes on the original layout are now used as a new loop forming an academy course. Further construction has steadily continued whereby a further four holes have been shaped and seeded with two greens completed late last year. The conception and overall management of this project has been undertaken by Sandy Burrell



New 18th hole at Weybrook Park

who has subsequently become one of the club's directors. The Board provide support, resources and guidance as required, to ensure the best possible course is achieved.

Personnel Changes

Early in 2013, Martin Hucklesby was appointed as General Manager with the remit of managing the club and its business, while also playing a key role in the development of the golf course. Since Martin has been a previous and experienced course manager with spells in construction at The Shire and Remedy Oak, this was to prove a key appointment



Surrounds and bunker yet to complete

for the club since few GM's have any real experience in this particular field. There were also changes in course personnel at this time and with the planned changes to a 27-hole complex, it was essential to recruit a Course Manager who had construction and grow-in experience, as well as the technical skills to seamlessly integrate the new holes into the existing course.

Step forward 35-year-old Jamie Sheeran who had worked previously on projects at Queenwood and in Turkey for two years, as well as spells in course remodeling and construction at Bearwood Lakes.

Jamie is qualified to NVQ Level Three and possesses the versatility required to successfully cope with the challenges of construction and grow-in, as well as on-going course maintenance. The day to day management and construction of the new holes largely rests with Jamie but with regular input from Martin who is frequently on site to discuss and review matters. The wider issues involve Sandy and to date this approach has worked well as each hole progresses.

Most of the decisions take place on site and fairly quickly with regular progress updates for the general membership.

Site data

I asked Martin to give more detail of the site, general progress and how it is being managed.

He explained: "This is a challenging but exciting project to manage.

The land was largely arable before golf and benefits from the free draining nature of the chalk soil which gives the course a mixed feel of being downland and parkland.

"Drainage and winter playability is not an issue on this course and even after last winter's deluge, the course remained fully playable throughout.

"Sunlight and air movement are plentiful therefore we have the fundamentals in place for producing good playing surfaces.

This project is also 'organic' and by that I mean that it is continually evolving.

To some extent it is a 'blank canvas' albeit within the general framework of the agreed design and this is what makes it exciting. We can change the plans if it makes sense and improves the finished product.

There have been many examples of this. Martin added: "When I arrived, it was quite noticeable how poorly the three new greens were performing. Fescue was fast disappearing as 'die-back', the Bent was slow to establish and Poa annua was being ever more opportunist. It was at this stage and in consultation with Jamie and others that we decided to oversee those three greens with Poa Reptans.

"Taking all into consideration, we felt that this grass was best suited for this site and a better match to the existing 18 greens.

"One year on, the greens are so much better in terms of grass cover and playability.

"Since two holes have yet to be constructed plus another two greens and tees, the remaining six holes are at various stages of completion. We now have four fairways and two greens completed and being maintained as 'grow-in', albeit at a level with low input since time is on our side.

"This is a different type of challenge since these holes will not be in play until at least 2016. Why waste money on manpower, equipment, fuel, top dressing, fertiliser and so on when there is no need to?"

This is an interesting project since most 'new builds' normally require a concerted push to bring the course into play in the quickest time possible to bring a return on the initial investment.



Martin Hucklesby and Jamie Sheeran



INSET ABOVE: Newly sown 17th green with Poa Reptans & Colonial Bent mowin at 8mm

BELOW: Soil profile on new green showing good root depth



Challenges faced

To gain a better understanding of how this works out in a practical sense, I asked Jamie for an insight into the role he plays. He said: "When I was appointed early last year, my remit was to maintain and improve the condition of the golf course while completing the construction and subsequent grow-in of the new holes. It is my responsibility to ensure that these new holes are of a suitable standard and commensurate with the existing course. We now have a total of seven full time staff, five of which are solely based on the existing 21 holes.

"Alan Oram joined as mechanic and construction engineer and divides his time accordingly between the workshop and the new holes. Soon after I arrived we purchased a 14 ton excavator and a nine ton dumper truck to be used in the construction of greens, tees and bunkers.

"We also have a full time shaper to move the 'fill' and form mounding and any water features as we require; the latter being butyl lined. Since there is no fixed time limit and we can only move as fast as material is available, this works out fine. Some days we may be constructing a green complex or a bunker while on others we will be mowing greens, fairways and roughs which adds to the variety of work."

New Course Details

Jamie continued: "Tees, like all other areas, have a free draining chalk base to which 200 to 300mm of screened local soil are added as rootzone before being seeded with a conventional bent/fescue mix.

We may oversee with a fine leaved rye at a later stage if this is deemed necessary, but the indication on the three holes now in play is that there is no need as yet. Greens drain directly into the chalk sub-base and are constructed with



a 100mm drainage layer using 5mm to 8mm shingle.

“An 80:20 Eco mix root-zone is added which meets all necessary ‘bridging’ and percolation criteria. Surrounds, fairways and roughs are top soiled to a depth of 150 to 200mm and then stone buried before being seeded with much the same mix as the tees. The depth of topsoil on some areas of rough will be marginally less. Alan and I install most of the irrigation infrastructure but we call on external support for the more difficult tasks such as pumps and controls.

“The key difference with this course is that we have sown 50:50 Poa Reptans: Colonial Bent on all new greens and I believe we are the first course in the UK to make this choice. Since we have not had to push the greens for a planned opening date, there is ample time for this grass to develop and refine. We are now cutting at 8mm and we can already see how this grass

is maturing in the hollows where there is a little more moisture and nutrients available. Establishment and root depth is good and to date there have been no issues to deal with other than the odd small area of wash-out. Nearer the time of opening, we will increase the input of fertiliser and top dressings as well as focusing on surface performance, aiming to finally mow at between 3.5 and 4mm as per all other poa based greens.

Summary

Developing an additional nine holes as an ‘in-house’ project is a considerable challenge. Success will mean the members enjoying an improved golf facility which will cater for all categories of golfer; this being essential for the club to thrive in an ever more competitive environment. The sowing of Poa Reptans on the new greens is a bold decision but one that is based on clear rationale and the existing

MAIN TOP: Modern practice range with easy to see target greens

ABOVE LEFT: Challenging tee shot at the new 11th hole par 3

ABOVE RIGHT: Superbly presented New 16th Hole

BELOW: 17th green being constructed Weybrook Park

environment. Martin and Jamie are experienced managers in their respective fields and are convinced that this is the right decision which may also point the way forward for other clubs in similar positions. One aspect that isn’t in any doubt is the superb condition of the existing course which is a credit to all who are involved.

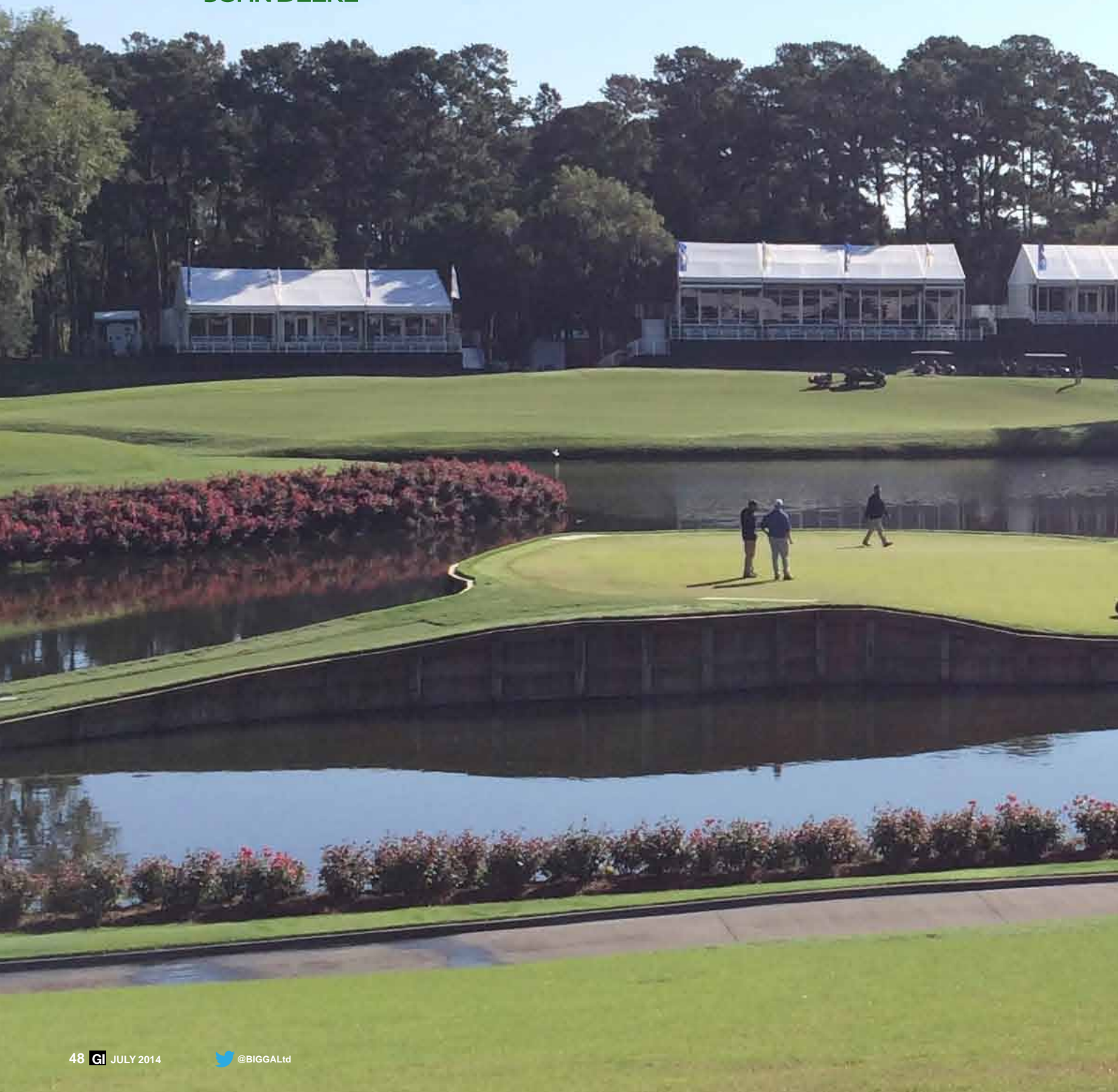


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Full terms and conditions for this exciting opportunity are available on the BIGGA website where you will also find a link to the online registration process.





The importance of a great cut

Steve Nixon, International Sales Manager for Bernhard and a former greenkeeper, talks cutting units and the importance of harmony between turf manager and machine

Cutting unit technology has moved on a lot in the last few years. The principle of cutting grass has not changed but there have been some major advances in the adjusting of mowers with more precision to make it quicker, easier and more precise to set.

The adjustment of cylinder to bed knife technology has changed. There are now easier ways to check and set roller heights and the introduction of steel inserts into the cutting edge helps the mower hold its sharp edge for longer.

We have 14 and 15 blade cylinders whereas before we had a maximum of 11.

Some people think this makes for better performance.

But, however wonderful the new machines are and however reliable our old machines may be, they still need two vital things if they are to work to manufacturers' expectations throughout their life.

They need to be used by a skilled and professional operator and they need to be well maintained.

Without these things they will

work, but they won't work to their optimum level.

Cutting machinery used on busy, demanding golf courses today, particularly where there are important tournaments going on, need to be in top condition every day.

Customers are more demanding because they have come to expect better quality. Naturally, better course conditions mean a more exciting game and more player satisfaction.

For the greenkeeper this means taking mindful care of the health and finish of the grass.

about the author



Steve Nixon

As Bernhard's International Sales Manager, Steve Nixon has almost three decades of golf industry experience. A trained mechanic and greenkeeper, Steve also grew up on a golf course where his father was Club Manager.

Steve's work takes him all over the world, where he advises customers and distributors of the importance of correct mower setup.



It's all common sense

Every greenkeeper knows that well cut grass is healthy grass, so how does blade sharpness affect the health of turf and how can a clean cut protect turf from disease and minimise loss of moisture from the plant? Can a clean cut really improve ball roll and consistency of play?

We have all used a blunt knife at some time or another, and we know how it hacks, tears and pulls at whatever we are cutting. The simple fact is a clean cut is just that. Clean.

Surgically sharp mowers slice through grass blades, severing the tissue cleanly and with minimal damage. Because all the grass blades are the same height and uniform in their appearance, the overall definition of the turf is improved and the ball roll is smoother so more consistent and often faster to play.

The slippery slope

What happens if you cut grass with blades that are not sharp enough? Firstly, your cutting

machine will tear at the grass leaving uneven and poorly cut blade tips. These ragged blades of grass will bleed losing plant moisture and nutrient. Also ragging leaves the tips open and vulnerable to disease from spores such as Fusarium and other leaf-spot diseases.

It is a slippery slope. The moisture lost through damaged tips has to be replaced. Repairing and regenerating plant health requires accelerated growth and that means a greater demand for food, which often means more fertiliser and water. Both these are very costly to supply and to deliver and are all terribly time consuming.

Agronomic and mechanical savings

Agronomically speaking there is clearly a reduction in the use of water, fertiliser, fungicide and top dressing which can be a very large gain for the club, plus the labour costs of handling the materials, electricity to pump the water and places to store the chemicals.

Mechanically, trials at several training colleges have demonstrated considerable fuel consump-



tion reductions - not to be sniffed at in our massively competitive climate.

Translate fuel reduction into mower life, engine wear, fewer parts to be replaced cost savings, time savings and so on and it all makes the clearest sense. And of course, if you burn less fuel you create fewer emissions.

You can't teach wisdom. But, you can keep reinforcing the message, and my message is - keep your blades surgically sharp on your cutting machines. You will do a better job, have healthier grass, save money, and keep the machines in first class order.



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



Around the green



Scotland

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



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tal work having featured regularly in various publications and as a consistent prizewinner in many competitions. He starts his new role in August and will have plenty to keep him occupied across St Andrews seven courses.

The 2014 Pairs competition has reached its halfway stage and regular updates should be available on both the Region and Section websites.

EAST

Excellent event held at Lundin Links recently with the Annual GCMA golf match, the match result unfortunately went in favour of the Secretaries this year. The course was in fantastic condition and big congratulations must go to William Swan and his team for how the course was presented.

Again a reminder that if your contact details have changed please feedback asap. 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.

Welcome New Members

Bobby McDougall, Affiliate Member, Indigrow Ltd, Janne Lehto, Greenkeeper, Loch Lomond Golf Club, Pawel Wasalski, Greenkeeper, The Duke's Course Golf Club, Gordon White, Greenkeeper, Kilspindie Golf Club.

Events Coming Up

CENTRAL

The Section outing will be at Dunfermline GC on 9 September.

EAST

Next section meeting 11 August.

Willie Woods Tournament @ Greenbrun GC 13 August.

Autumn Meeting @ Monktonhall in September.

AGM @ Old Mussleburgh in October.

Annual Xmas Soiree in December (Venue TBC).

News

CENTRAL

St Andrews Links have been busy recruiting to replace some experienced staff who have moved on to good jobs recently. Paul Armour has joined form his position as Head Greenkeeper at Lochgelly GC. Paul will be the Supervisor on the New and Jubilee courses.

Craig Berry has moved from Leven Links and Grahame Taylor has started at St Andrews from his current place of work at Gle-neagles.

Greig Easton has been promoted to Supervisor on the Castle Course.

Just heard that Kevin Webster of Leven is replacing Paul Armour as Head Greenkeeper at Lochgelly GC

Also making a start at St Andrews Links as their Environmental Officer is James Hutcheson who is leaving his role as EO at Fairhaven. James is well known in the industry for his environmen-

NEW SCOTTISH WEBSITE

www.biggascottishregion.com

News, events, education, history, news on the Scottish Patronage Scheme and much more from across Scotland's five Regions

If you have any views on the website or have anything to be considered for inclusion please contact John on 07776 242120 or johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

NORTH EAST

9 July Hexham GC Summer Comp. Best Gross and Best Nett will qualify for the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 6-7 October at Liphook GC in Hampshire. This is a great opportunity not to be missed.

SHEFFIELD

Next golf date is 10 July at Stocksbridge tee off 1.30pm. We are arranging the Sheffield section v Northern section comp to be held at Hickleton Golf club and will be sponsored by Glen from Russell Ground Care. We would like to thank Adam Etches Sheffield boxer for being a guest and for bringing in the boxing belts - all the best in the future.

News

NORTH EAST

Results, Close House GC, 28 May. Big thank you to Brian and his team for having the course in fantastic condition, everyone enjoyed the day considering the weather wasn't pleasant!

Best Gross Andrew Terrace (Goswick Golf Club), Best Nett 1 Jack Fryer (Percywood GC) 2 Michael Gunn (Tyneside GC) 3 Colin Donaldson (Percywood GC) 4 David Wilkinson (Whitley Bay GC). Best Retired Jimmy Richardson.

Best Trade The 'Extremely Lucky' Nik Blessic (Tacit).

Keep an eye on social media sites for upcoming events, questionnaires etc. your feedback is very welcoming to help in prove our section.

SHEFFIELD

We would like to thank The Grange Golf Club for letting us use their course for our invitation day, the day was a success and the weather was good, well attended by greenkeepers, captains, vice captains and green committees.

The winners were Jamie/Dave from Stocksbridge and the overall winner for the greenkeepers was Mark from The Grange Golf club with 38 points. Hope to see you all at Stocksbridge.

CLEVELAND

All very quiet in the Cleveland section at the moment this must mean everyone is busy making sure their courses are in pristine condition.

Over here at Richmond the grass is growing that vigorously we have completed the equivalent of two months cutting in one month, I can't wait to see the diesel bill.

Alistair Whitby of Lloyds held a very successful demonstration day at Mowden Park Rugby club. It was really good to see the diverse equipment available for maintaining golf courses and sports fields. I believe over 600 people attended over the two days.

If you have any news no matter how small let me no on amcgeough@aol.com

Welcome New Members

Chris Barnacle, Affiliate Member, Thompsons Groundcare Ltd, Bob Egerton, Affiliate Member, Astbury Golf Club, James Tock, Greenkeeper, Richmond Golf Club, Adam Wormwell, Assistant Greenkeeper, Towneley Golf Club, James, Kirkham, Assistant Greenkeeper, St Annes Old Links Golf Club, Chris Hunter, Assistant Greenkeeper, Pike Hills Golf Club.

New International Members

Sweden - Hakan Eriksson, Affiliate Member, Indigrow Ltd, Peter Olsson, Affiliate Member, Indigrow Ltd. Switzerland - Tim Sethi, International Greenkeeper, Golf Club Blumisberg. USA - Derek Wilkerson, International Greenkeeper, Sun City Golf Course. New Zealand - Clinton Kreuscher, International Greenkeeper, Tara-Iti Golf Club.

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



Around the green

Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

MID ANGLIA

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

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

EAST OF ENGLAND

Our next golf day is at Boston West Golf Club on Thursday 31 July, tee off at 1PM. Please contact Bruce Hicks if you would like to play.

News

BB&O

We had our BB&O Spring Cup at Oxford City GC. Results: 1 David Lyons, 2 Steve Doyle, 3 Dom Lewis. Nearest the Pin winners: Matthew Gilkes, Matt Nutter. Longest drive: Rob Catlin. A big thank you to Justin Lee and the team at Oxford City GC for a fantastic day and superb course in great condition.

Order of Merit sponsored by Banks Amenity: 1 David Lyons, 2 Steve Doyle, 3 Dom Lewis, 4 Paul Reeve, 5 Simon Mallock, 6 Ashlee Miles, 7 Tony May, 8 Paul Hedger, 9 Matt Nutter, 10 Rob Catlin, 11 Matthew Gilkes, 12 Phil Pykett. Everyone who attends each event receives 1 point, with bonus points awarded for nearest the pin and longest drive.

Other news - congratulations to Chris Ball who moves from Bearwood Lakes to take over as Course Manager at Newbury and Crookham.

MIDLAND

As you read the next sentence please imagine the Big Yin's accent: "I'm not for going to tell you a story this month, but impart some informal education". (accent over). This my 5th year moonlighting as a groundsman at the local football club to which Birmingham City Ladies chose as their home ground. Last year they were to play a UEFA European competition against an Italian team.

The list of requirements was as long as your arm, one being the width of the pitch. So with a True-meter off I went to set such up, I went across one way and then back again and kept getting a 5% difference? In the end I put such down to the grain of the grass and used the tarmac surround and this gave me the accurate results. So be warned allow for discrepancies when measuring up turf etc. 5% over a use can be found,

5% under is not just embarrassing but is a pain in the ass.

Please remember you can email me with content for our notes at: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk.

Our First Section Golf Tournament of the year took place at Olton Golf Club on 14 May with 26 players. Many thanks to Mark Smith and his team for presenting the course to such a high standard. The results were 1 Adam Halifax, 2 Mark Cutler, 3 Ray Hayhurst. Nearest the pins: A Brougham, A Halifax, B Timms, D Fellows.

Handsworth Golf Club hosted the annual Greenkeepers v Presidents Team match on 13 May with the greenkeepers coming out on top for the second year running! Many thanks to all who played in this important annual fixture that has been running since 1952. Congratulations to Adam Jones and his team who are improving this beautiful Birmingham course year on year.

The Section's new upgraded website is gathering more information and being utilised by more members than ever before. Please take a look at www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk and send us your comments or suggestions.

MID ANGLIA

Our Spring meeting held at Bedfordshire Golf Club on 21 May went really well with 25 players competing. Thanks to John Gubb Course Manager and his team for providing such a well presented challenging course. Results:

1 R Patton, Bedfordshire GC, 38pts, 2 M Scullion, South Beds GC, 36 (countback), 3 S Mason, Stocks GC, 36. The trade prize went to L Pearman from Toro with 35 points. Nearest the pin on 6th: R Catlin, on the 15th: S Woolley.

EAST OF ENGLAND

Elsham Golf Club May 20, results: 1 Rob Bemment, 2 Chris Davies, 3 Colin Hopper. Trade: Garry Poole. Nearest the pin: Colin Hopper. Nearest the pin in two: Zane Pexman.

Many thanks to all at Elsham for their hospitality on the day. The food was excellent as always. Congratulations to Colin Hopper and his team for providing a course in fantastic condition. The turnout on the day was disappointing with only 16 people playing, half of whom were trade members. These days are always enjoyable, however if anyone has any suggestions to make the days more popular then please pass them on to a committee member.

Congratulations to Chris Goodhall, Deputy Head Greenkeeper on his new appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Selby Golf Club. All the best for the future from everyone in the section.

Thanks to Sponsors

MID ANGLIA

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

If you feel you may be interested in sponsoring Mid Anglia Section in 2014 please contact a committee member for details.

MIDLAND

May's kind calendar sponsor was "Countrywide/Andy Lane". Andy can be contacted on: 07774 416429 or email: alane@countywidefarmers.co.uk.

I hope that by the time you read these notes that the silly semi-rough season has ended and that we are running around fixing the irrigation problems and hand watering. With such in mind, this month's calendar sponsor is

North Staff's Irrigation Ltd. Please consider them for your irrigation requirements. Tel: 01785 812 706, or Web: www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk .

Section Tournament at Olton was sponsored by Redtech, many thanks to Graham Hall for his continued support and all the sponsors on the day who provided raffle prizes and nearest the pin beer.

EAST OF ENGLAND

Many thanks to the sponsors of the day at Eltham F.G.Adamson and Son John Deere dealers. Especially to Steve Blanchard and Tony Jenkins and also Gillian Jenkins for providing the halfway house.

Welcome New Members

Ken Bonser, Affiliate Member, Market Harborough Golf Club, Gary Austin, Assistant Head Groundsman, Radley Golf Club, Luke Wilson, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Radcliffe-on-Trent Golf Club, Adam Clark, First Assistant, Muswell Hill Golf Club, David Stout, Greenkeeper, Western Park Golf Course, Callum Herbst, Greenkeeper, The Grove, Tom Luffman, Greenkeeper, Boston West Golf Centre, Sam Bates, Assistant Greenkeeper, Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, Daniel Mead, Assistant Greenkeeper, Wavendon Golf Centre, Matthew Jackson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Brookfield Golf Club, Michael Cameron, Assistant Greenkeeper, Badgemore Park Golf Club.



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Events Coming Up

KENT

Etchinghill Golf Club on 11 September.

SURREY

- 17 September Hankley Common GC Section v Trade.
- 30 September Surrey Bowl Final at Foxhills G&CC.
- 4 November England v Scotland Hankley Common GC.
- 19 November Match v Secretaries at The Berkshire GC.
- 19 December Turkey Trot.

Wednesday 10 September a social evening and quiz night will be held at The Cricketers pub in Chobham starting at 7pm. Teams of 4 will be challenging each other. Cost of £15 per head includes food with entry.

Philip Mayes from Merrist Wood College has organised several seminars, details next month!

2 five-day courses in Chainsaw, Cross Cutting and Felling are planned for late Autumn under the guidance of Mark Brewer.

If any members are interested and require more information in participating Scott Roberts can be contacted via the Surrey website.

News

KENT

Many thanks to the multitude of Kentish men who joined us at Mid-Kent Golf Club recently to play Lee Sayers' immaculately presented golf course.

At a time when many of us are struggling to maintain some semblance of presentation and definition to our own courses, we were soundly reminded of how clinical one can be when given the necessary resources.

Many of our fine group made hay whilst the sun shone down on us and scored well despite the overriding pre-requisite requirement to stay dead straight at all times. Unfortunately, I was as straight as the proverbial nine-bob note and wouldn't have won a prize if we'd blown the year's budget on them.

Following the game and the necessary apologies to my playing partners, we were treated to a superb meal by the Mid-Kent catering team. It was absolutely delicious. We were especially pleased to welcome some new faces to our group and we hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did and you join us again. What a cracking day. Results as follows: 1 Chris White 40pts (bandit), 2 Aaron Launchbury, 3 Chris Witchlow, NP Richard Larkin, LD Chris Witchlow.

Thanks everyone. Brilliant day with top company.

SURREY

The National Qualifier event at the Drift GC on 6 June was cancelled, the event merged with The Cresta Cup and played at West Surrey GC. on 27 June

Mike Kirkham has retired from West Surrey GC after 39 years of service. Alec McIndoe will take over as Course Manager at the club.

Welcome New Members

Andy Ward, Affiliate Member, Headland Amenity Ltd, Wendy Windscheffel, Affiliate Member, Headland Amenity Ltd, Richard Poskitt, Affiliate Member, Indigrow Ltd, Mark Brewer, Affiliate Member, MGC Limited, David Beard, Greenkeeper, Malden Golf Club, Robert Wallis, Greenkeeper, Birch Grove House Estate, Bradley Coleman, Greenkeeper, Worplesdon Golf Club, Derek Foreman, Greenkeeper, St George's Hill Golf Club, Christopher Walsh, Greenkeeper, Seaford Head Golf Club, Robert Costen, Greenkeeper, Saffron Walden Golf Club, Christopher Pearce, Greenkeeper, Rochester & Cobham Park GC, Edward Bullock, Greenkeeper, Verulam Golf Club Ltd, Ashley Rannie, Assistant Greenkeeper Worplesdon Golf Club, Alexander Stoneley, Assistant Greenkeeper, Romford Golf Club, Robert Sewell, Assistant Greenkeeper, Seaford Head Golf Club, William Turner, Assistant Greenkeeper, Fulwell Golf Club, Alejandro Bueno-Humphrey, Assistant Greenkeeper, Fulwell Golf Club, Philip Hobbs, Assistant Greenkeeper, Bawburgh Golf Club, David Springham, Assistant Greenkeeper, The Bursstead Golf Club, Jack Sansom, Assistant Greenkeeper, Sunningdale Golf Club.

South West & South Wales

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



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Events Coming Up

DEVON & CORNWALL

Next meeting July 9 at Truro Golf Club which will be the Devon v Cornwall match.

SOUTH WALES

Invitations have been sent to all Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers for the Golf Management Trophy which is being held on Wednesday 23 July at Cardiff Golf Club. This event is being sponsored by Everris and the winning two teams will be entered into the final, this is a great event and we hope that it will be well supported by clubs in our section. For more details, please contact Tracey Harvey 07841 948110.

A reminder we play for the Patrons Cup in August at Neath Golf Club more on that next month.

Unfortunately we have had to postpone the Toro irrigation day and course walk at Royal Porthcawl GC as numbers were not to good due to everyone being flat out trying to keep on top of the grass on the course in this weather. We are now looking into dates to rearrange this event later in the year, probably in October, date tbc.

SOUTH WEST

Our section knockout is in full swing with round two matches currently underway amid fierce competition, good luck to all participants. Upcoming events: Section AGM on Thursday 9 October at Saltford Golf Club. Christmas Tournament on 17 December at Cirencester Golf Club.

SOUTH COAST

The Golf Management Trophy will be held at Parkstone Golf Club on 11 September, more details next month

News

DEVON & CORNWALL

21 May saw 32 members attended the meeting at Wrangaton Golf Club where the Devon and Cornwall section National Championship qualifier was played. The weather couldn't have been better for the course walk and for the people who chose to play golf. Thank you to the Head Greenkeeper for a very good course walk and well presented

course. Also thanks to all at Wrangaton for all their help. Results: Longest Drive: Sean Chapman. Nearest the pin: Cam McMorris. The section championship was won by Jacko playing off 17 carded a Nett 65,

2 Cam McMorris playing off 12 carded a Nett 67, 3 Pete Newman Nett 70, 4 Mike Bush Nett 71. Congratulations to Jacko who Qualifies for the National Championship at Liphook Golf Club.

Thank you for all the people attended the meeting as the section keeps growing in strength.

SOUTH WALES

Let's start with our defeat at Royal St David's GC for our Match v North Wales, the weather was perfect and the course in fantastic condition, the down side we lost 1-1/2 to 3-1/2. The up side everyone enjoyed golf and food was excellent.

A big thanks to Rhys Daniel Butler and all his team. I would like to thank everyone that made the effort to travel, again congratulations North Wales.

The big upside came when we travelled to Chippenham Golf Club for the match v the regions, with the changes to the course and the fantastic club house, we were made welcome.

BIGGA South Wales 244pts, Golf course Association 217pts and BIGGA South West 214 points, lovely new shield back over the bridge, Big D the captain very happy indeed.

I heard a milestone for Peter Gillard as he turned 80 years young, most of us know him as lecturer in Pencoed college.

SOUTH WEST

Well done to South Wales who cruised to victory in the Intersection match at Chippenham Golf Club on 29 May. This was a new format contested by South West BIGGA, South Wales BIGGA and South West Secretaries, keep an eye out for this one next year.

As you may have seen in Greenkeeper International and online, the Club Management Trophy is back this year as sponsored by Everris, make sure that you make yourself aware of the regional venue.

SOUTH COAST

We played the Wessex secretaries at Broadstone Golf Club on 3 June.

Unfortunately I have to report that we lost 3 to 2. We would like to thank Broadstone for allowing the match to be held at the club. The course was in great condition due to the hard work by Martin and his team. Well done.

Thanks to Sponsors

DEVON & CORNWALL

Thanks to Chrissy's for the food at Wrangaton. Thanks also to the sponsors Mr Japes of Sports Metals for nearest the pin and longest drive prizes, and Everris's Mike Franc.

SOUTH WEST

Many thanks to our South West Section 2014 Patrons: Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Farmura, Ecosolve, T H White and Sportsmark and for their invaluable support. Welcome to Indigrow who have recently come on board as a Section patrons.

SOUTH COAST

A big thank you must go to Course Care for continued sponsoring of the match v Wessex Secretaries.

Welcome New Members

John Smart, Affiliate Member, Indigrow Ltd, David Watkins, Greenkeeper, Army Golf Club, Nicholas Wilkins, Greenkeeper, Farleigh Court Golf Club, Adam Weal, Greenkeeper, Chippenham Golf Centre, James Hawkins, Greenkeeper, Newport Golf Club, Oliver Davenport, Assistant Greenkeeper, Hockley Golf Club



Be BIGGA's number one



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

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

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



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

Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

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

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Golf Club

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- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value **£90**
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of **£90**

Card number

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Start Date Expiry Date

Last 3 security digits

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature.....

Date.....

Or E-mail your details to:

rachael@bigga.co.uk

Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

Deadline for entry is 5th September 2014.

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



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

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



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



Sami Strutt
Head of Learning & Development
BIGGA
01347 833800
sami@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk

SCOTLAND



Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB
Contact: Michael.clark@sruc.ac.uk
www.sruc.ac.uk/elmwood
01334 658969

Full-time National Certificate Greenkeeping, Block Release /Fast Track and Work-based Learning options for SVQ Levels 2 & 3 Sports Turf. HNC/D Golf Course Management (full time and distance learning), HNC/D Golf Facility Management (full time and distance learning). Short course in Chainsaw, Tree Climbing and Rescue Techniques, Plant Operations, Pesticide Spraying and Noroso Certification/Courses



ENGLAND



Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR
Contact: Central admissions 01904 772211
enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

Extended Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture. Foundation and Extended Foundation Degrees in Sports Surface Management, Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time.

Block release courses: WBL Diploma Levels 2 and 3 Greenkeeping WBL Diploma Levels 2 and 3 Groundsman Sportsturf Maintenance. Short courses: FEPA spraying, irrigation, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB
Contact: Lesley Lowrie 0141-556-3999
Fax: 0141-556-4999 learn@gostatraining.co.uk

SVQ Level 2 and 3 and Modern Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping/ Sportsturf and Landscape. Attendance Day release or Distance Learning. SVQ Level 4 Management is available with flexible learning options. Lantra and NPTC Industry related short courses with certification include Pesticide courses, Chainsaw, full range of Machinery 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.



HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL
Contact: Anthony Stockwell
01732 853163
anthony.stockwell@hadlow.ac.uk
www.hadlow.ac.uk

City & Guilds work-based qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for apprenticeships for all ages. We also offer a range of short courses, such as Health & Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw and Pesticide Application.

Additionally full and part-time courses (post GCSE through to degree level) are available in horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects.



ENGLAND



Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PB
Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB
Contact: Customer Services: 0845 609 9599
duchyteam@duchy.ac.uk www.duchy.ac.uk

A range of courses delivered throughout the South West: Levels 2 and 3 Workbased Diplomas and Apprenticeships in Horticulture including Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. NVQ 4 Amenity Horticulture (Management). Level 2 and 3 Diplomas in Horticulture (including Sustainable Horticulture) FdSc and BSc (Hons) Horticulture. HND/HNC in Garden and Landscape Design. RHS Level 1, 2 and Advanced Certificate. Also short courses in pesticides, plant machinery vehicles, and chainsaws. Distance learning available via e-portfolios.



Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF
Contact: Gareth Phillips 01270 613236
enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk
www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Block release, industry tailored, courses including Level 2 and Level 3 Work Based Diplomas and apprenticeships in Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship
 Also full time Level 2 and Level 3 Diplomas in Horticulture.
 Short courses include NPTC pesticide application, chain saw operation, safe use of mowers and manual handling.
 Bespoke courses and overseas programmes available on request.
 Please see website for details of open evenings and information events throughout the year.



Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE www.merristwood.ac.uk
Contact: Philip Mayes 07896 67 47 89 pmayes@guildford.ac.uk
or Andrew McEvoy 07896 67 47 86 amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk

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, Sports Turf Apprenticeship
 Diploma Level 2, Automatic Turf Irrigation Systems NPTC Certificate
 of Competence, NPTC Safe Use and Operation of Mowers, Tractor
 Driving, Hedge Trimmers, Turf Maintenance Equipment & FEPA
 Spraying, Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Mole Control.
 Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice on
 courses and funding. Open evenings are held regularly at the College.



Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY
Contact: Course Enquiries team on 01995 642211
www.myerscough.ac.uk Email: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk

Myerscough College is a pioneering centre for Sportsturf Education and Training in Europe. Courses are available at all levels from Introductory Diploma to Honours Degrees in Sportsturf Science and Management. There are options for full-time and part-time study with our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Sportsturf Science courses uniquely available ONLINE also and having students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the USA. A new "Top-Up" BSc Degree in Sportsturf Science and Management is now available for those already holding FdSc or HND qualifications in Sportsturf. Our Work Based learning team offers apprenticeship opportunities throughout the UK.



Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA
Contact: Andrew Wight 01727 737735
andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
www.oaklands.ac.uk

Oaklands College offers on demand on-line learning for City and Guilds courses at levels 2, 3 and 4 as well as Apprenticeships at level 2 and 3 in Greenkeeping and Sports-Turf Management throughout the South East. New for January 2015 is our on-line Higher National Certificate in Greenkeeping. In addition we offer monthly certificate of competence courses for PA1/2 and 6. Full time Horticultural courses on offer include City and Guilds Entry Level 3 to Level 2.



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


Apprenticeships offered at Levels 2 and 3. Diploma in Horticulture, Levels 2 and 3. Part time courses: Work based Diploma: Level 2: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Landscaping and Horticulture. Level 3: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Landscaping and Horticulture. Level 4 : Horticulture. RHS Levels 2 and 3, both Theory and practical. Short courses available, including FEPA Spraying and Chainsaw. Bespoke Training, e.g: Manual handling. Mower use and Maintenance. Risk Assessment. Strimmers and Hedgetrimmers.



BE SEEN HERE

Your training provider could appear here, as an advert or listing, in our next edition of Greenkeeper Training

Get in touch with our Sales team on 01347 833800 to find out more



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- Craft level qualifications**
City & Guilds Level 2 Work based Diploma and Level 2 Apprenticeships
- Online Study**
All work based learning is online and students can study at home or work without the need to travel to college**

For further information or advice on funding and apprenticeship grants available for work based training contact andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk, call 01727 737735 or visit www.oaklands.ac.uk

*Depending on units taken **With the exception of exams.



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BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management Full-time or online study.	Apprenticeships Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship Training.

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Myerscough College's Degree programmes are validated by the University of Central Lancashire

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For more information and to receive a prospectus contact
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www.myerscough.ac.uk

GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk

The next installment of Greenkeeper Training will be in December 2014

Phone us on 01347 833800 to get your college or learning provider featured





Greenkeepers Training Committee

The page where the GTC invites representatives from its Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to discuss their particular specialism within the sports turf sector

David Golding, GTC's Education Director, invited Jenny Pitts, Coleg Cambria's Work Based Assessor – Sports Turf to explain how the Centre delivers the greenkeeping programmes including apprenticeships.

David has visited the North Wales college for many years albeit when it was the Welsh College of Horticulture in Northop, North Wales. It is synonymous with educating and training local greenkeepers many of whom are now Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers.

The halcyon days of Graham Wright the turf tutor, Derek Green the late Head Greenkeeper at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Bill Lawson and others certainly contributed to a wonderful learning experience at the college. Now Jenny and her colleagues have taken on the mantle to ensure the region has various options to learn at all levels of greenkeeper education and training.

Jenny said: "Since joining Welsh College of Horticulture in 2006, we have undergone many changes and mergers, but we have ensured the provision for Sports Turf has not only been maintained but increased. We now have a team of assessors visiting workplaces throughout north and mid Wales, delivering a range of courses and levels.

"We offer all levels of Horticulture and Sports Turf qualifications, from 1 to 4. We work closely with the courses to provide a detailed, comprehensive and rewarding course that is centred around the workplace and the employee. With options for funding that includes Apprenticeships, European funding and distance learning we have



number of methods to support the training. We support individuals and companies to access funding, and provide courses and qualifications that will develop knowledge and skills within the industry. We can also deliver bespoke courses that will fit around the needs of your team, you just need to tell us what you want and when.

"We have had great successes within the sector over the years, with one of our most recent learners going to America on the Ohio Programme.

"We have been using e-portfolios for over 2 years now and have seen the benefits with our learners taking more ownership of their qualifications and access is available for the employer to see the progress.

"Our focus, as much as possible, is learning by carrying out the work and being involved in all aspects on the job. I feel this is the ideal way to learn practical tasks for the majority of people as it helps them to understand the work and processes involved. All units on our qualifications have underpinning knowledge that supports the practical work and enables the learners to increase their understanding of sports turf and their maintenance.



The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

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GTC Education Director
and Standards Director,
Greenkeeper Training

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near Alne
York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk
www.greenkeepertraining.com



You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

"Over the years we have worked with various golf courses in our catchment area, and I am pleased to say that the majority of them come back to us again for further training, new staff or higher levels of sports turf qualifications. We also have new courses and businesses contacting us regularly which allows the team to visit new places and build further excellent relationships with the industry. Coleg Cambria and our team are continually looking to support the sector and the amazing staff that work within it.

"We work closely with the BIGGA North Wales section, hosting a number of their conferences in recent years at our Deeside site. This allows the team to meet the staff from local courses and discuss training options.

"Coleg Cambria was formed in 2013, with the merger of Deeside College and Yale College in Wrexham. The consortium now consists of a number of sites around North East Wales, delivering a wide range of courses on campuses and within work places."

For more details contact Jenny Pitts on 07875 223003 or jenny.pitts@Cambria.ac.uk

BUYERS' GUIDE

Turfdry Ltd Golf Course Drainage Specialists



Currently in its 20th year of delivering high quality projects nationwide, Turfdry has established an impeccable reputation with over 60 golf course clients. In addition to offering conventional drainage systems, Turfdry is the sole approved UK installer of Hydraway Sportsdrain, the advanced technology of which exemplifies the company's ethos: maximum efficiency with minimum disruption.

It was Turfdry's reputation for carefully considered, well-executed drainage solutions that led to its involvement in a current project to develop a flood mitigation scheme for Enfield Golf Course.

This unique challenge has seen Turfdry work together with Enfield Golf Club, Enfield Council (the landowners) and the Environment Agency. The EA is undertaking a £15-million scheme at the southern edge of the golf course that will restrict the flow of the river that runs through the course in order to prevent flooding of residential properties further downstream.

However, the consequence of protecting homeowners is that the large clay bund and flume currently under construction will direct the floodwater onto Enfield GC's fairways instead.

Enfield Council, which had previously employed Turfdry on a successful project at its municipal Whitewebbs Golf Course, asked the firm's M.D., Melvyn Taylor, to design a mitigation scheme that could be funded by the Environment Agency as part of a compensation package.

The first phase of work has seen the installation of the Turfdry Drainage System using Hydraway Sportsdrain on the fairways most at risk from flooding, designed to facilitate the rapid removal of water from the course following flood events.

Conventional plastic pipe drainage could not be used due to the flat topography of the floodplain, but Hydraway is effective even when installed at zero gradient.

Phase 2 of the scheme – proposed for 2015 – should see the construction of large ponds and other on-course water storage features designed by Turfdry to minimise the frequency of fairway flooding events.

Meanwhile, Turfdry will be extremely busy with other scheduled drainage projects in 2014 at other UK golf courses, including The Rayleigh Club in Essex, where the Turfdry Drainage System is to be installed on all 18 holes of their flagship course.

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THE GOLF HOUSE CLUB, ELIE COURSE MANAGER

Our Head Greenkeeper retires in December 2014 after 50 years service and we invite applications for the new position of Course Manager. The course is set in a delightful coastal village in the East Neuk of Fife, 11 miles south of St Andrews on the Firth of Forth. A private Members' Club established in 1875, the Course Manager will have full responsibility for the preparation and maintenance of the 18 hole links course together with a 9 hole course, driving range, bowling green and 18 hole putting green belonging to Elie Sports Club. The successful candidate will be a qualified greenkeeper with at least 5 years current management experience in presenting a golf course to the highest standards and be passionate about providing the best possible playing conditions and course standards for members and visitors.

Please contact Moira Lawrie for an application pack, including a full Job Description and Personal Specification at:

The Golf House Club, Elie, Fife KY9 1AS Telephone: 01333 330301
or Email: moira@golfhouseclub.org
Application closing date: 14th July 2014

Assistant Greenkeeper

We are seeking an enthusiastic, motivated individual to join the green-keeping team, you will be an integral member of the team and will be involved in the day to day presentation of the golf course, construction work and other aspects of grounds maintenance, health and safety and customer care, to ensure the course is presented to the highest possible standard.

Working under the direction of the course manager the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the ongoing development of this outstanding golf course.

You will preferably already have experience on a golf course and be qualified to NVQ level 2 in Sportsturf Management, however this is not essential as training will be provided as needed.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a well established club with an experienced team of greenkeepers.

Interested persons should apply in writing and enclose their CV's to the Course Manager, North Wilts Golf Club, Bishops Cannings, Devizes, Wilts or email to greens@northwiltsgolf.com

The closing date for applications is Friday 11 July 2014

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER - SOUTH EDINBURGH

Whitehill House Golf Club, is a private 9/11 hole, Standard Scratch 71 golf course, situated 12 miles south of Edinburgh, set in woodland, with excellent equipment and machinery. Own transport essential and must live within commuting distance of Midlothian.

We are seeking to appoint a deputy head greenkeeper with the following:

Education level of NVQ/SVQ 3; Knowledge of maintaining courses to the highest standards, PA1, PA2 and PA6; Chainsaw and spraying certificates; A high level of competence with modern greenkeeping equipment; Good team/motivational skills; A keen eye for presentation and attention to detail; Hard working and conscientious; Good leadership / management skills; CS30 & 31; Good machinery / workshop skills; Mechanical interest and knowledge; Knowledge of irrigation systems; A keen golfer

Salary is negotiable dependant on experience, based on a 39 hour week involving annualised hours. To include some weekend and occasional weekday overtime.

Applicants should email their CV (subject: Greenkeeper Vacancy) with a covering letter to mail@businessparcs.com. References will be required.

Closing date will be 31st July 2014.

Lawn Specialist

An experienced turf care professional is needed to join the team at a prestigious private house in North London. This residence boasts one of the most extensive private gardens in London, and a lawn covering four acres.

You will tend to every aspect of lawn maintenance, ensuring that the grassed areas are kept healthy and looking beautiful all year round. From removing debris, to edging, to mowing and the application of professional treatments at appropriate times of the year, this is an opportunity to take a high level of responsibility for the presentation of an exceptional outdoor environment.

Reporting into the Head Gardener, you will recommend turf care practices and also identify and treat pests and diseases when they occur. You need to be passionate about grass and able to manage your own time and priorities.

To apply, please send your full CV to: domestic.recruitment.team@gmail.com.



SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

Assistant Greenkeepers x 2

Sunningdale Golf Club wishes to recruit two Assistant Greenkeepers. Working as part of a team in the maintenance and development of the golf course, its practice facilities and the surrounding estate.

The candidates should have:-

- Minimum 3 years experience preferred
- Minimum qualification of NVQ level 2 or equivalent preferred.

Desirable qualifications;

- PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates

Sunningdale is dedicated to achieving truly World Class standards:

- Venue for the Open Championship Final Qualifying 2014
- Venue for the Senior Open Championship 2015
- Venue for the annual Sunningdale Foursomes Tournament played since 1934
- Old Course ranked at No 22 in the world (Golf Course Architecture Magazine)
- New Course ranked No 53 in the world (Golf Course Architecture Magazine)
- Investors in People Silver Award

Please apply in writing or email with full CV and covering letter to:
Clare Livingston, Administration & HR Manager, Sunningdale Golf Club
Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR
clarel@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk

Closing Date for Applications: 14th July, 2014



Sunningdale Golf Club, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR
www.sunningdale-golfclub.co.uk

Head Greenkeeper

Woodbridge Golf Club in Suffolk is a traditional, friendly members club with two (18 and 9) classic Suffolk heathland courses. The opportunity has arisen for Woodbridge Golf Club to seek and appoint a Head Greenkeeper who will report to the Club Secretary and be responsible for the management, maintenance and development of both courses and the rest of the estate.

The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate the following attributes:

- Previous experience of performing the role of Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager at a private members golf club.
- Previous experience of course construction work of tees, greens and bunkers
- A good understanding of all relevant machinery and equipment, and established business relationships with the suppliers of both machinery and consumables
- Excellent leadership and people management skills
- An understanding of financial/budgetary management

Salary is negotiable and will reflect the ability of the successful applicant.

Applicants should in the first instance send a comprehensive CV accompanied by a covering letter stating why you are interested in the post and what you will bring to the role.

The envelope should be marked 'Private and Confidential' and addressed to The Chairman of the Management Committee, Woodbridge Golf Club, Bromeswell Heath, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2PF.

The closing date for applications is the 1st August 2014.

www.woodbridgegolfclub.co.uk

**Advertise your
recruitment here
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at www.bigga.org.uk/careers
from £595+vat for an 1/8 advert
Contact **Jill Rodham** on
01347 833 812

WHITLEY BAY GOLF CLUB COURSE MANAGER

Whitley Bay Golf Club is a private Members Club founded in 1890. Situated 2 miles North of the seaside town, it enjoys what many believe to be one of the best tests of golf in the North East. Further information on www.whitleybaygolfclub.co.uk

Due to our current Course Manager leaving in September 2014 applications are invited for the post of Course Manager from suitably qualified and highly motivated candidates who will:

- *be responsible for all aspects of course management
- *continue and enhance the current development programme
- *hold relevant industry qualifications

*possess knowledge of modern machinery and maintenance

*possess knowledge and ability in Health and Safety Legislation

*be computer literate with the ability to provide written reports to the Club Committee on budget formulation and management

*be able to demonstrate leadership and staff management

*have a proven track record of a high standard of course presentation

Letter of application together with CV should be made by post or e-mail before 18th July to: Mrs D Ridley, Secretary, Whitley Bay Golf Club, Claremont Road, Whitley Bay, NE26 3UF or whitleybaygolfclub@virginmedia.com



MUIRFIELD Deputy Course Manager Muirfield

Following the success of last year's Open Championship, the position of Deputy Course Manager has become available. Interested candidates should possess the following:

- A minimum of 5 years Links experience
- Qualified to NVQ/SVQ level 3
- PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying qualifications
- Management/Supervisory/Leadership skills
- High level of competence with modern greenkeeping equipment
- Knowledge of irrigation systems
- Maintaining golf courses to a Championship standard

Competitive salary and benefits offered.

The closing date for applications is 20 July 2014.

Applicants should send their CV to Colin Irvine, Course Manager, HCEG, Duncur Road, Muirfield, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2EG.

joannabent@muirfield.org.uk



SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

Seasonal Assistant Greenkeepers x 2 (from January to September 2015)

We are seeking 2 Seasonal Assistant Greenkeepers to complement our team in the preparations for the Senior Open Championship 2015, participating in the maintenance and development of the golf course, its practice facilities and the surrounding estate.

The candidates should have:-

- Minimum 3 years experience preferred
- Minimum qualification of NVQ level 2 or equivalent preferred.

Desirable qualifications;

- PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates

Sunningdale is dedicated to achieving truly World Class standards:

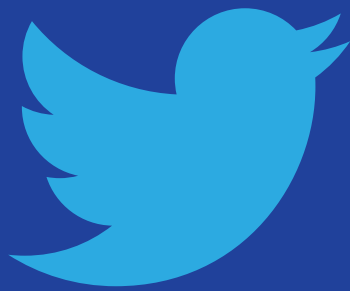
- Venue for the Open Championship Final Qualifying 2014
- Venue for the Senior Open Championship 2015
- Venue for the annual Sunningdale Foursomes Tournament since 1934
- Old Course ranked at No 22 in the world (Golf Course Architecture Magazine)
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Please apply in writing or email with full CV and covering letter to:
Clare Livingston, Administration & HR Manager, Sunningdale Golf Club
Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR
clarel@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk

Closing Date for Applications: 14th July, 2014



Sunningdale Golf Club, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR
www.sunningdale-golfclub.co.uk



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

Our favourite tweets and pics this month...

@Gazsimmo
@BIGGALtd our hole cup inserts #repairyourpitchmarks @HearsallGC

@CHGC_Greens
Wow, that was some storm @CamberleyHeath

@Eastberksgc
On notice board near you @BIGGALtd #spreadtheword

@CampeyTurfCare
@BIGGALtd Scottish Golf Championship 70 #greenkeepers playing, good luck to them all #CampeyMachinery

@BIGGANorthWest
Another productive section meeting tonight on #education. All will be revealed in the near future.....

@CGCGreenkeeper
@BIGGALtd just completed the #biostimulants CPD Quiz! Excellent method for reinforcing and retaining the material!

@ecclestonparkgc
Big thanks to our friends at @BIGGALtd for donating a car boot full of @BagAmnesty equipment for @TheGolfTrust

@TheMindFactor
MICHAEL HEBRON, PGA HALL OF FAME talks about Karl Morris and ATTENTION : <http://themindfactor.net/blog/news/>

@TheOpenLive
Follow @The_Open, the official Twitter feed of The Open Championship, for the latest news & photos.



@CampeyTurfCare at Scottish Golf Championship

We'll bring you scoring during #TheOpen.

ScottishGolfUnion @SGUGolf

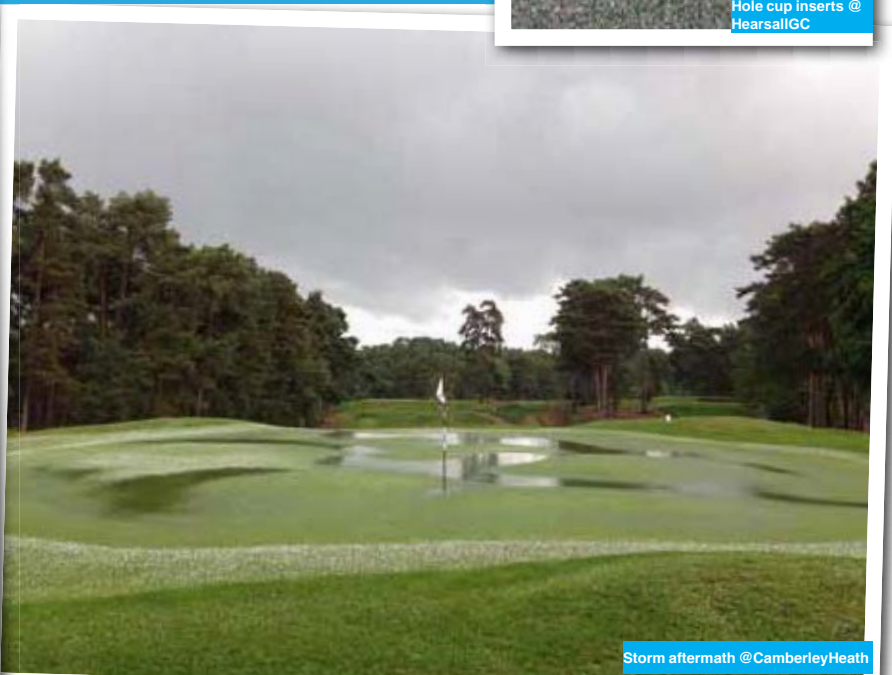
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Noticeboard @Eastberksgc



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