Bridge over troubled water
Greenkeeping resilience at an eventful Open Championship

ALSO INSIDE... OPM : HEIGHT OF CUT : ROYAL WIMBLEDON
Praise for Open greenkeepers

I must begin by paying tribute to the awesome job done by the St Andrews Links Trust greenkeeping team on the Old Course for the Open Championship, the golf course was immaculate throughout the tournament, producing low scores and a thrilling climax.

On the Friday morning the transformation from a course besieged by rain to perfect conditions in just a few minutes was testament to both excellent preparatory work and the heroic efforts on the day to shift vast quantities of standing water.

I’ve always loved the fact that the Head Greenkeeper of the venue is invited to be part of the official presentation party and I’m sure I wasn’t alone in smiling at Zach Johnson with the St Andrews McEwan with Gordon Moir and Gordon McKie for what seemed like most of the proceedings.

I’ve always loved the fact that the Head Greenkeeper of the venue is invited to be part of the official presentation party and I’m sure I wasn’t alone in smiling at Zach Johnson with the St Andrews McEwan with Gordon Moir and Gordon McKie for what seemed like most of the proceedings.

To hear Zach Johnson praise the greenkeeping team so fulsomely in his winning speech was immensely gratifying. Tribute must also be paid to the BIGGA Support Team who endured a testing week with so many delays. The group maintained a fantastic spirit and as usual friendships were made and cemented.

For so many to change their plans in order to make and cement.

This is the volunteering time of year for our members give up their time to support this great industry.

I am convinced that as an industry we can do more to shout about in order for the profession to get the recognition it deserves.

Another opportunity for industry recognition is the BIGGA Awards, inaugurated last year in association with the IOG and this year going it alone. The 2015 Awards were launched recently and the winners will be announced during the BIGGA Welcome Celebration to be held in the historic Harrogate Royal Hall during BTME. Last year’s Awards showcased some outstanding achievements and it is no exaggeration to say had a profound effect on the careers of some of the finalists and winners.

I urge all of our members to consider nominating themselves, colleagues or friends, there are no limitations on size of club or scale of facilities – the Awards simply seek to recognise outstanding achievements in greenkeeping.

I am convinced that as an industry we can do more to celebrate the fine work of greenkeepers and I sincerely hope these Awards are embraced by our membership and that the judging panel have a very difficult job at the end of the year.

Enjoy the read.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO
As Royal Wimbledon Golf Club celebrates its 150 year centenary, Laurence Pithie visited this unique club to find out about its past, current work programs and what it plans for the future.
July was dominated by one thing and one thing only, the WEATHER! The start of the month down south saw temperatures well into the thirties and the dry spell continuing. At the same time greenkeepers further north were reporting exceptionally high, unseasonal rainfall. And of course we all witnessed what the weather can do to one of the world’s leading sporting events.

The hottest July day on record gave large areas of the country a great summer feeling, as many sunbathed in London’s parks and filled the south coast beaches. For greenkeepers it was a bit different, we started to think about soil temperatures, managing soil moisture, dry patch and maintaining grass cover to produce good putting surfaces.

Whilst we have always had to face these challenges, recent years have seen a rise in the popularity of testing tools. Thermometers, moisture meters, stimpmeters, smoothness testers. These tools have given us the ability to measure the conditions and manage them accordingly. Having the data gives us facts (ammunition) to deal with committees, GM’s and owners.

The guys further north dealing with heavy rain also have these tools and can use them to justify the continued work they are doing to reduce OM levels and improve the drainage capacities of their greens and other areas of the course.

What the weather did to The Open was nothing short of tragic. It started with torrential rain on Friday morning. At 6.15am I was at the 1st tee trying to convince a scorer that the St Andrews Links would be fine and would happily soak up all the rain.

How wrong I was, the rain became very heavy and play was halted shortly after the second match of the day teed off, and a 3 hour 30 minute delay ensued.

What it did do was give the world a chance to witness the resilience of greenkeeping teams. What the St Andrews team achieved on the world stage was a monumental effort, one that made me very proud of our industry, it highlighted what other teams do week in week out without the recognition. We do it because we love it.

On Saturday the weather threw the Old Course another curveball with strong winds that led to a very lengthy delay. The delay was unusual but once again highlighted an issue we all have to deal with.

Many of us have to deal with the Bar Room committee, on this occasion I heard TV pundit Mark James state the problem was down to “mower happy greenkeepers”. Really?

The following morning the scoring was amazingly low for a while and the TV pundits were telling us how great the greens were. We really can’t win at times. All we can do is to continue the best we can, communicate the best we can and try and turn a blind eye to some of the poorly informed nonsense.

My final thought on The Open, it was great to spend time with a group of members, they all worked extremely hard and were a credit to our association. Also, plaudits to the St Andrews team led by the two Gordons.

The course was amazing, the greens were smooth and true and the team dealt brilliantly with all challenges they had to face. A true team effort, well done to all.

Chairman’s Word
BIGGA National Chairman 2015, Les Howkins MG, gives his thoughts for the month

Credit for a testing Open

“What the St Andrews team achieved on the world stage was a monumental effort”

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.

Contact details
Les Howkins MG
chairman@bigga.co.uk

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Individual Contributors: Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS, W J Rogers, Espen Bergmann, Nick Gray, Steve Dacre, Richard McGlynn, Douglas Oughtred, Joey Goodchild, Michael Beaton, David Barker, Greg Lewis, Frank Newberry
BIGGA AWARDS LAUNCHED

BIGGA are delighted to announce two new Regional Conferences for 2015 in the Highlands and Solway (North Cumbria and Dumfries & Galloway). The first annual BIGGA Highlands Conference will take place at Nairn Dunbar GC on Thursday 11 November. BIGGA Golf Trust will be presenting a seminar focusing on ‘Working with Trust’. This will be followed by a presentation from Gordon McKeag, Course Manager on the Old Course at St Andrews. He will be discussing before, during and after The Open 2015 from a greenkeeping perspective.

BIGGA Solway (North Cumbria & Dumfries and Galloway) Conference, which will take place on Wednesday 25 November at Simlire Hotel in Gretna. BIGGA CEO Jim Croston will welcome everyone attending then introduce the first speaker, BIGGA Chairman and Course Manager at The Richmond GC Les Howkins MGL. Les will be followed by David Cole MGL Course Manager at Loch Lomond GC.

Henry Bechelet, Technical Manager at Events will also offer a seminar with another speaker to be confirmed as GI went to press. Registration is at 9.30am. To reserve your spot please contact John Young on 07776 242120 or johnyoung@bigga.co.uk. The next event is the BIGGA Solway (North Cumbria & Dumfries and Galloway) Conference, which will take place on Wednesday 25 November at Simlire Hotel in Gretna. BIGGA CEO Jim Croston will welcome everyone attending then introduce the first speaker, BIGGA Chairman and Course Manager at The Richmond GC Les Howkins MGL. Les will be followed by David Cole MGL Course Manager at Loch Lomond GC.

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Sandra Raper

THE LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Now’s your chance to honour the fantastic work of greenkeepers as nominations open for the BIGGA Awards 2015.

Greenkeepers will be vying for three categories aiming to recognise outstanding achievement, skill, dedication and excellence in greenkeeping - with the winners being announced live during the prestigious ‘Welcome Celebration’ at BTME 2016 next January.

The three categories are BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the Year sponsored by Jacobsen, BIGGA Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year and BIGGA Greenerkeeping Achievement of the Year.

The Awards are open to all Full Members of BIGGA, whether they are employed at large multi-site facilities or smaller venues. You can easily nominate an individual greenkeeper or greenkeeping team by completing a short questionnaire at www.surveymonkey.com/r/BIGGAawards2015

The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 30 September 2015. A panel from BIGGA will review all the nominations before selecting a shortlist of three for each category, then deciding on one winner for each Award. The winners will be announced during the popular ‘Welcome Celebration’ in the Harrogate International Centre’s Royal Hall during BTME 2016. The Celebration begins at 5.30pm on Tuesday 19 January 2016.

Sponsorship is still available for the BIGGA Awards and GCA National Awards and GCA encourages all greenkeepers to purchase a table to celebrate the achievements of their peers.

For more details on this fantastic opportunity please contact BIGGA’s Business Development Manager Jill Rodham on 01347 833800 or jill@bigga.co.uk.
KEVIN’S RIGHT ROYAL HONOUR

Current Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Kevin O’Neill recently rubbed shoulders with royalty as he picked up another award in what’s been a memorable year for the rockdale-born greenkeeper.

Kevin, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Muirfield Hill Golf Club, had already won a City & Guilds Medal of Excellence Award for his studies after being established for centuries.

and represent various trades from various professions – goldsmiths, blacksmiths, needlemakers and even potters who work on the roads and highways. I felt really proud and humbled to be representing greenkeeping on the day, and this sort of event just shows what a proud, long-standing profession greenkeeping really is.”

Kevin, who is secretary of BIGGA’s London Section, said: “I’ve got to be honest, when I first got a call from someone representing the Worshipful Company of Gardeners I thought it was a wind up!”

“So, my partner Jude and I got our glad rags on and headed to the palace! It was a fantastic day. I got to have a chat with Princess Anne. We talked about her becoming an honorary member of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews which was really interesting.

“Most importantly, the Section will seek to engage with current, former and future members to ensure that those individuals gain benefit from being part of BIGGA.

A calendar for the next 12 months has been developed with two education events in the pipeline, the first of which will be in November and will be to everyone that would like to attend both members and non-members.

This event will have two speakers along with representatives from BIGGA to explain the current plans for the association. The second event, the BIGGA Northern Ireland Conference, will aim to be the highlight of the calendar and work is underway to engage with potential speakers.

Our first event though is the first BIGGA Northern Ireland Golf Championship that will be held at Clandeboye Golf Club on Saturday 2 October. Leavers will be issued to ALL current members in Northern Ireland providing further details but please get the word out to anyone that may be interested in attending.

This promises to be an excellent event to kickstart BIGGA in Northern Ireland again.

We are now looking for further help in getting the section established and if you would like to take part in the working group then contact John Young on 07776 242120 or by emailing johnyoung@bigga.co.uk.

Kevin was nominated due to his outstanding Level 3 work, and Kevin, who is secretary of BIGGA’s London Section, said: “I’ve got to be honest, when I first got a call from someone representing the Worshipful Company of Gardeners I thought it was a wind up!”

“So, my partner Jude and I got our glad rags on and headed to the palace! It was a fantastic day. I got to have a chat with Princess Anne. We talked about her becoming an honorary member of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews which was really interesting.

“It met all sorts of people from various professions – goldsmiths, blacksmiths, needlemakers and even potters who work on the roads and highways. I felt really proud and humbled to be representing greenkeeping on the day, and this sort of event just shows what a proud, long-standing profession greenkeeping really is.”

Stephen Bernhard added: “Fostering career development is the basis of the City and Guilds qualifications. Education is very dear to my heart and this is yet another excellent example of young talent excelling. My congratulations to Kevin.”

FEGGA GREENKEEPER EXCHANGE SCHEME

The objectives are to increase greenkeeping skills, share experiences and life skills; and to give each participating club the benefits of new ideas and initiatives coming in from established greenkeepers.

When established, the Scheme may be used to help golf and greenkeepers from the smaller, more remote countries to develop by bringing contact with the larger and more established countries.

A year-one pilot initiative between suitable golf clubs will test the mechanism by which the Scheme will benefit the European golf industry, and deliver the following:

• The building of inter-club and staff relationships, and sharing of skills and experience.
• The opportunity to experience new challenges and problem-solving.
• Reflection and re-evaluation of the challenges of the job position.
• Refresh and reinvigorate key staff.
• To become more influential.

The scheme is designed for golf clubs and their Senior Assistant Greenkeepers or other Greenkeepers who are aspirant in their careers. The applicants must have at least two years of experience at their present club, be in good health with a clean driving licence. They should be capable of keeping records and writing reports, and be proficient in any languages that may apply in the cases of cross-border placements.

The Clubs must be willing to participate and will agree to the pre-set criteria governing the placement available from FEGGA.

Where possible during this pilot phase, FEGGA will meet all reasonable expenses incurred by participants although this will be by negotiation. Participants and clubs should be aware that some expenses will inevitably apply.

FEGGA invites applications by August 20. These should be made via email to Dean Chasey deancasey@fegga.org who will supply a detailed application form and a full set of Ground-rules.

The latest news from around the globe... to feature on these pages please contact Steve Castle on 01347 833800 or email steve.castle@bigga.co.uk
SCOTLAND STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN CHALARA ASH

Until recently Scotland’s ash trees and woods looked as though they might escape the worst of chalara ash dieback disease but the distribution of new outbreaks since January shows Scotland is now as hard hit as anywhere in the UK.

Forestry Commission’s (FC) new interactive map, and in operation since autumn 2014, is divided into 10km x 10km squares (hectads) each with its own unique Ordnance Survey Reference. Hectads where Chalara has been confirmed in the ‘wider environment’ appear in different colours relating to the year when first found. Infections recorded in ‘recent ash plantings’ which had been shown on the old style map are absent.

Between 1 January 2015 and 6 July 2015 155 more hectads had been identified with chalara ash dieback across England, Scotland and Wales and of these 117 (75.4 per cent) were in Scotland. This compares with just 40 hectads in Scotland infected between October 2012 and December 2014.

FC Scotland was sufficiently confident to establish a ‘sheltered’ area in northwestern Scotland and protected by an adjacent ‘buffer zone’. This was set up as part of the government’s Chalara Action Plan 2013 to delay infection reaching mature woodlands in north-west Scotland. The designated ‘sheltered’ area essentially occupies the land north and west of a line from Inverness to the north of the Isle of Arran in the south.

By May 2015 the disease had been found at three locations within the ‘sheltered’ area. Two of these locations were in Morvern in south-west Lochaber on the west coast of Scotland and the third in Glen Nant, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserve south-east of Oban. By 6 July chalara had been reported in at least 7 more locations within the ‘sheltered area’.

Environment Minister Dr Aileen McLeod said: “FC Scotland and the forestry sector have worked extremely hard over the past three years surveying, investigating and managing ash woodlands in a bid to slow down the rate of spread of this disease and prevent new points of infection from recent plantings, particularly in the ‘sheltered area’.

Maintenance of the ‘sheltered’ area in north-west Scotland was based on removal and destruction of all recently planted ash trees on infected sites under the terms of Statutory Plant Health Notices. The associated ‘buffer’ area also saw the removal and destruction of recently planted ash trees showing signs of infection.

Faced with a disease spread by airborne spores, and affecting such a frequently occurring wild tree as common ash, it is not surprising that such a policy soon becomes untenable.

Minister McLeod said: “I have asked Forestry Commission Scotland to review the Chalara Action Plan, with advice from the Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group, to assess what more can be done to promote adaptive action and to consider the appropriateness of current actions within the sheltered and buffer areas.”

Adaptive actions that could be undertaken might include finding trees with lower disease susceptibility, as well as collecting ash seed from across the country to help preserve a wide gene pool for future use says FC Scotland.

Meanwhile the plant health authorities in England appear to have caved in. As of May 2015 it is no longer possible to obtain from the (FC website) the total number of chalara outbreaks recorded to date across the country whether in nurseries, recent plantings or the wider environment, or indeed where they are. After initially recording how many cases had been found in a particular hectad the only information now available is the date (by year) of the first chalara finding in the wider environment for each hectad.

A spokesperson for Strategic development’ at FC England told Greenkeeper International how current operational policy is to record (following laboratory confirmation) one wider environment infection per hectad. “Once a single infection is recorded in a hectad we will not proactively seek to record any more ‘disease outbreaks’”, said the spokesperson.

The UK plant health authorities appear to be accepting that a disease spread by airborne spores and infecting one of Britain’s most widely spread and frequently occurring wild trees is beyond logistic and economic control.

Dr Terry Mabbett

For a speedier return to play after aeration, Genuine Toro® tines deliver every time.
Good aeration is vital to the health and presentation of your turf. So don’t compromise with inferior quality tines.

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

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SUPERB RANGE UNBEATABLE VALUE

The TYM compact tractor range. Powerful, reliable, four-cylinder diesel engines available from 23 to 100hp mean these superb workhorses can cover a wide variety of tasks on the golf course, while offering outstanding value for money.

Packed full of innovative features such as easy-to-read LED display, hydrostatic power-steering, optional weather cab, and much more, TYM tractors make the ideal choice for any discerning golf club owner and greenkeeper.

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MEET BAYER’S TURF SOLUTIONS TEAM

With the regulatory environment changing at a phenomenal rate for greenkeepers and groundsmen, they need fast, accurate advice on turf matters, more than ever before.

Help is at hand from Bayer in the form of an experienced team of former greenkeepers and groundsmen to make up their Turf Solutions team.

Bayer Product Manager Steve Bishop said: “The role of the Turf Solutions team is to support professionals in the industry in a changing working environment.”

We understand the rapid shifts that are taking place in the industry, and we’re in a pivotal position because of our expertise and experience, to offer workable solutions when performing integrated pest and disease management.

The new Turf Solutions team is made up of four professionals, all with extensive backgrounds in the sector, meaning they are experts in their field.

Dr. Colin Mumbford - With wide-ranging experience and qualifications in the amenity and sports turf sector, Colin’s role is largely focused around advising industry professionals with grass management best practice advice and he’s the first point of call if there’s an issue, disease, or insect problem.

Colin is former Head Greenkeeper at North Wold Golf Club, technical officer for the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute and technical manager for artificial surface specialists Sweeplast. He has a degree in landscape and amenity management, a masters degree from Cranfield University in sports turf technology, and an Engineering Doctorate in irrigation and soil management on racetracours. Colin is also BASIS qualified.

Greg Collins – Greg has 17 years of practical hands-on experience in the industry. Greenkeeping is in his blood. He worked in Germany as an assistant greenkeeper for two years, and for a further three years as Head Greenkeeper at Schloss Schauinsland Golf Hotel. He then returned to Ireland where he was head greenkeeper for 11 years at Charleville GC, Cork.

Neil Pettican – Neil has worked in the professional turf and amenity sector for nearly 20 years. A graduate of Cranfield University with a masters in sports turf technology, Neil has both hands-on and management experience in greenkeeping, groundsmanship and construction, gaining a diverse mix of sports turf experience in the UK and abroad.

Dave Orchard – His career started with Rhyg Taylor and from here he worked for eight years as a technical representative for Gem Professional. And Dave has been BASIS qualified for 18 years. His role at Bayer is to offer a support function for turf and amenity professionals. He advises both distributors and end users, and does a lot of problem solving.

The experience and expertise of the Bayer Turf Solutions team provides a thorough understanding of the greenkeeper and groundsmans roles; enabling them to offer the very best technical support and advice to customers, in all areas of management best practice.

The Bayer Turf Solutions team will be attending a number of events in the coming months so please come and meet them to discuss your specific turf matters.

They will be at BIGHA’s South West & South Wales Regional Conference at Somerset CCC, Taunton on November 18, and the entire team will be heading to Harrogate for BTME 2016 with Colin due to present another seminar in the Continue to Learn education programme.

As any greenkeeper or groundsman will know, frequent aeration ensures turf is kept in peak condition all year round. And, following the high traffic that comes hand in hand with summer, it’s especially important to aerate now.

However, Dan Dibb is quick to point out that there’s more than one factor to consider when ordering multiples of 25 of the same type of tine. To take advantage of the promotion, and users simply need to get in touch with their local genuine Toro parts dealer or service centre.

Toro has over 100 tines to choose from to suit every tine application, so it’s vital to ensure you have the best equipment to meet all of your aeration needs successfully,” he said.

Engineered and designed to fit the entire Toro ProCore range and get the best results from an aeration programme, Toro has over 100 tines to choose from to suit every tine application, so it’s vital to ensure you have the best equipment to meet all of your aeration needs successfully,” he said.

To meet increasing demand for online purchases, Highspeed Group Ltd has launched their new website CourseCare.net.

As part of their ongoing development program review, the company recognised the need for an easy online purchase option. The new web store, created and maintained by Highspeed’s Business Development Manager, Ryan Anderton, features many of the products and services Highspeed are renowned for: Worksafe, Tools, Sharpening, Parts, Oils and associated products but new is the vast array of equipment. This includes fans and heaters, welding sets, compressors, portable lighting and spill products to name but a few.

A huge new Safety Catalogue is available too offering a comprehensive range of safety products in hundreds of thousands of signs for virtually every eventuality.

Special offers are a regular feature on the site and, as one impressed customer put it: “I didn’t know Course Care did all that; it’s amazing!” This is one aim of the site; to let customers new and old find not just those golf and turf maintenance know what Highspeed Group and Course Care can and do provide.

A quick search on the new site will often save long winded searches and phone calls. Highspeed are quick to point out however that they are more than happy to take phone calls as they always have! The number is still the same too: 0845 600 3572 and the new website is www.coursecare.net

NEW FACE AT JOHN DEERE

John Deere Limited has appointed Bob Hob as branch customer support manager for the UK and Ireland, replacing Stuart Minter, who has worked for more than 30 years with the company.

Bob has a Diploma in Agricultural Engineering from Caythorpe College and a BSc in Agricultural Technology and Management from Cranfield Institute of Technology. He began his career with John Deere in 1986 and then customer support manager in 2010.

Stuart was responsible for developing John Deere’s national dealer service standards, and was closely involved with the industry-wide ‘Look Behind You’ campaign to promote safe tractor and trailer braking. He was also a chairman of the AEA service managers committee.

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This month’s Membership page could feature nothing else but the fantastic efforts of the BIGGA Open Support Team. They came from far and wide – from USA, Germany and all across the UK - and spent even longer than expected at the 144th Open Championship in St Andrews as the tournament extended into Monday evening.

BIGGA’s General Manager Tracey Maddison said: “It was a week which really showcased the very best of the Association, what we’re all about – commitment, professionalism, career development, hard work and some fun thrown in!”

“You can’t emphasise enough the lengths the team went to as the weather affected play on the Friday and then for 11 hours on the Saturday. They lived in the first tee cabin were stationed in the first tee cabin and the tour of the maintenance facilities, to walking up the most famous fairways in golf alongside some of the world’s greatest.

“They can truly be proud of their efforts and we’re very proud to be involved with an Association which can boast members who will go so far for their industry. We’ve seen this sort of commitment before, and we will do again, but hopefully the prestigious nature of The Open meant both the home greenkeeping team and the BIGGA support team enjoyed a bit of long overdue media coverage and exposure for greenkeeping.

“We also had many ‘first timers’, who despite naturally being nervous at their first Open experience, adapted brilliantly to conditions throughout.”

“I’d also like to thank Rachael Duffy and Steve Castle for their efforts during the week, and also Scotland and Northern Ireland Regional Administrators John Young and Midland Regional Administrator Roger Butler. They were stationed in the first tee cabin for much of the week and worked long hours to ensure all the guys were fully briefed and prepared for their rakes. Thank you also to the Board members who put in great shifts on the first tee and reassured the team members about to go out – they were terrific at calming any nerves!”

“We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the entire team at St Andrews. From the moment the BIGGA team arrived at the Home of Golf, everyone was made to feel part of the entire team working towards the success of the event. Special thanks to Gordon Moir, Gordon McKie, Simon Connah and Paul Armnor who were regular visitors to the BIGGA marquee during the week and gave up their time to chat to the team who were fascinated to find out more about preparing the famous links for the tournament.”

Gordon Moir also found time to give the entire team a tour of the venue’s hugely impressive maintenance facilities on the Wednesday. A week truly to be proud of for all concerned.

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The new Speed-Brush is very effective at grooming, top dressing and multi-tasking. It can make for a superior putting surface by lifting lateral shoots on golf greens to allow for an even cut .... makes light work of brushing sand into aeration holes .... and can even redistribute infill into an artificial playing surface.

Find out more about the new Speed-Brush today.
BENEFITS OF TRAINING

Stuart Green, BIGGA’s Head of Member Learning, provides us with a clear rundown of how investing in a training programme at your club has huge benefits on many levels.

Benefits of Training
Training will boost the morale of your staff, increase their productivity and give your organisation the competitive advantage it needs in these tough economic conditions.

Improved Staff Morale
Training is a commitment towards developing the skills of your staff and cementing their loyalty.

Increased Productivity & Motivation
Training provides the structures, techniques and awareness to manage time and workload efficiently, which increases productivity and motivates staff to achieve more.

Competitive Advantage
Training gives staff the skills to handle your customers professionally and increase customer satisfaction. Training also improves internal efficiency, to keep you ahead of the competition.

Lower Recruitment and Training Costs
Effective training lowers staff turnover, which reduces recruitment and training costs. Stuart added: “Remember that BIGGA offers many funding opportunities to receive funding towards your individual learning and development.

“The main themes are the Level 3 Scholarship supported by Baroness, the Higher Education Scholarship supported by Jacobsen and the Refund of Fees scheme.

“For more information on these as well as how to apply, visit the BIGGA website, click on the Education tab and click on ‘Funding Opportunities’.

FTMI 2016 UPDATE
A reminder that the application process for the Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen will be opening in September. This unrivalled career development opportunity takes place at Ransomes Jacobsen’s headquarters in Ipswich. For more on the FTMI and how it can boost your career head to the BIGGA website and click on ‘Education’ Future Turf Managers Initiative.
We’re also putting the finishing touches to the Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2016!

The programme will be officially launched at the beginning of October and we are hoping to feature over 230 hours of the most varied education available in the industry.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Congratulations to Joe Button from Meltham Golf Club, who has been awarded a Ransomes Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarship. Joe will be studying a FdSc in Sportsturf/Surface Management at Ashkham Bryan College.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships
may be awarded if you are a full BIGGA member studying for the following qualifications:

• NVQ Level 4
• Higher National Certificate
• Foundation Degree/HND
• BSc Turf Management

For more information on eligibility visit the BIGGA website or contact BIGGA L&D.

SCHolarSHIPs Supported by
Jacobsen

To find out more contact BIGGA L&D on 01347 833800 (option 3)

BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

To find out more contact BIGGA L&D on 01347 833800 (option 3)
On the fifth day

Heavy rain and winds challenged everyone at the 144th Open, forcing the tournament into the Monday for only the second time ever. Here’s how the superbly resilient greenkeepers adapted to a tumultuous week.
Upon being crowned champion at around 8pm on Monday evening at St Andrews, Zach Johnson credited patience and perseverance with helping him claim the Claret Jug – qualities which the BIGGA Open Support Team also showed in which the BIGGA Open’s presence at the Home of Golf began with little hint of the drama and upheaval to come. An early morning visit to the Old Course on the final practice day proved fruitful.

On a chilly and grey morning, the huge TV screens闪耀 dazzlingly with sunshine casting a stunning golden light across the famous links, Moir kindly led the entire tour of the facilities and how they operate before the day’s drama and upheaval to come. The first three golfers had completed just one hole when the decision was taken to suspend play at 6.46am with torrential rain and heavy winds battering Fife, and the home greenkeeping team grabbed squeegees in an attempt to mop up the water. Around 20mm of rain fell on Friday morning, with 12mm arriving in one thirty-minute burst. Thanks to the home greenkeepers’ sterling efforts and the remarkably quick-drying course, play was able to resume at 10am. Images of the St Andrews’ greenkeepers sweeping water into the iconic Swilcan Burn were beamed around the world and they were widely praised for their amazing efforts in ensuring play could resume so rapidly after the deluge. The delay in play meant that Round Two matches had not been completed by the end of Friday with hopes high that Saturday would see Round Two completed, the cut made and Round Three begin. However, the weather had its

BUNKER STATS

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<th>Thursday</th>
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Day two dawned with the weather even worse than feared. The first three golfers had completed just one hole when the decision was taken to suspend play at 6.46am with torrential rain and heavy winds battering Fife, and the home greenkeeping team grabbed squeegees in an attempt to mop up the water. Around 20mm of rain fell on Friday morning, with 12mm arriving in one thirty-minute burst. Thanks to the home greenkeepers’ sterling efforts and the remarkably quick-drying course, play could resume so rapidly after the deluge. The delay in play meant that Round Two matches had not been completed by the end of Friday with hopes high that Saturday would see Round Two completed, the cut made and Round Three begin. However, the weather had its

TALES FROM THE RAKES

Tom Smith from Wickham Park GC was raking for Kevin Streelman on the first morning when the American found a bunker. The golfer was clearly annoyed, and pulled his sand wedge out of his bag with such force it flew into the bunker tool. Remarkably the random draw for day two placed Tom with exactly the same trio – Streelman, Shane Lowry and Retief Goosen. Kaye Pierson from Pinehurst resort was following fellow American Morgan Hoffmann when strong winds blew Wall’s name from the scoreboard carrier’s board – this proved an ominous sign of things to come as the next morning saw play suspended due to the breeze. Last but not least...imagine you’re on the first tee at St Andrews, waiting to rake for Anthony Wall when strong winds blew Wall’s name from the scoreboard carrier’s board – this proved an ominous sign of things to come as the next morning saw play suspended due to the breeze. Last but not least...imagine you’re on the first tee at St Andrews, waiting to rake for Anthony Wall when strong winds blew Wall’s name from the scoreboard carrier’s board – this proved an ominous sign of things to come as the next morning saw play suspended due to the breeze. Last but not least...imagine you’re on the first tee at St Andrews, waiting to rake for Anthony Wall when strong winds blew Wall’s name from the scoreboard carrier’s board – this proved an ominous sign of things to come as the next morning saw play suspended due to the breeze. Last but not least...imagine you’re on the first tee at St Andrews, waiting to rake for Anthony Wall when strong winds blew Wall’s name from the scoreboard carrier’s board – this proved an ominous sign of things to come as the next morning saw play suspended due to the breeze. Last but not least...imagine you’re on the first tee at St Andrews, waiting to rake for Anthony Wall when strong winds blew Wall’s name from the scoreboard carrier’s board – this proved an ominous sign of things to come as the next morning saw play suspended due to the breeze.
SeaMax
Soluble seaweed concentrate with proven benefits.

An innovative formulation of seaweed boasting over 75% active seaweed content, which has been proven to significantly improve turf colour and quality.

- Maximum performance with highest active content on the market
- Tank-mix compatible with selected products
- Premium high density Atlantic Ascophyllum nodosum seaweed extract

English and Nigel Colley helped out hugely by raking for two matches. The honour of accompanying the final match went to Sam Bethell, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Chipstead Golf Club, and Sam joined Simon Torr, First Assistant Greenkeeper from Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, in joining the dramatic play-off to rake if required.

Thank you to each and every member of the Team who were patient, professional, good-natured and hugely enthusiastic throughout. A particular thank you to Gordon Moir, Gordon McKee and the entire St Andrews greenkeeping team who made the Team feel so welcome and part of the operation during the tournament.

The final word goes to BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton who said: “This has been one of the most challenging Opens the BIGGA Support Team has faced. Inclement weather led to constant logistical issues and the abandonment of the best laid plans, yet without exception they adapted superbly to two days of uncertainty and delays and the extension of the tournament into Monday.

“Many of the team put personal and professional plans to one side and paid out of their own pockets to ensure they could remain at the course on Monday, and we are incredibly grateful to them for their flexibility and outstanding commitment. We congratulate the entire team for their sterling efforts during the week, covering very long hours in many cases.

“Everyone at BIGGA would also like to congratulate Gordon Moir, Gordon McKee, the whole greenkeeping team at St Andrews and all the other volunteers who responded wonderfully well to almost unprecedented challenges to ensure an absolutely outstanding links course was presented for the 144th Open.”

“SeaMax is playing an important part in my fertilizer programme. You get such a natural green up.”

Steve Wilson
(Trump International Aberdeen)
Olympic golf
returns to Rio

An exclusive article on how BIGGA Partner Jacobsen have teamed up with BIGGA member Neil Cleverly to prepare the course in Rio as golf returns to the Olympics

It’s the premier sporting occasion on the planet, watched by a global TV audience estimated at over 3.6 billion, and Jacobsen products will play their part as golf returns to the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro next year, after a 112 year absence.

The golf course has been constructed in Barra da Tijuca, a district of Rio de Janeiro that contains the largest number of Olympic Games venues located 7km from the Athletes’ Village.

Gil Hanse and his team won the battle to design the course and were awarded the contract following submissions from seven other high profile entries – Gary Player Design, Greg Norman Golf Course Design, Hawtree Ltd, Nicklaus Design, Renaissance Golf Design, Robert Trent Jones II and Thomson Perrett. Hanse was voted ‘Architect of the Year’ by Golf Magazine in 2009, the same year that one of his designs, Castle Stuart in Scotland, won the accolade of ‘Best New International Course’.

After a delay due to a Customs-related issue with the irrigation system, construction began towards the end of 2013. Based on a typical layout found in Australia’s sand belt around the Melbourne area, the course features natural vegetation, extensive bunkers, a lagoon and sandy rough ground lining the fairways.

The mix of grass species is an interesting one with Zeon Zoysia used extensively on tees and fairways while Seadwarf Seaside Paspalum is used on the greens. Both species are drought tolerant and the Paspalum is also saltwater tolerant, which is important as the quality of the irrigation water will be variable.

None of the grass on the course has been grown ‘in situ’ from seed; all the grass cover has been laid as turf or sprigs. Marcello Matte is the owner of Green Grass Brazil, who are responsible for producing the grass that has been used across the 35 hectare (85 acre) site. The Zeon Zoysia cultivar, explicitly for use on golf courses, has been developed by grass breeder David Douget of Bladerunner Farms in Texas, USA.

The planting of the golf course began in May 2014, using three different approaches; the majority of the Zeon Zoysia areas – tees and fairways – were planted using large rolls of turf, but some areas were planted using oblong shaped turf sods. The Seadwarf Seaside Paspalum used on the greens were all planted as sprigs. As well as being drought tolerant, Zeon Zoysia has low fertiliser requirements and grows in a dense mat, which helps with weed suppression.

Course Superintendent Neil Cleverly, International BIGGA Member and International Superintendent Member of the GCSAA, is the successful Englishman who landed one of the most sought-after jobs in the industry in June 2013. With a portfolio that encompasses Europe, Asia and the USA, he is extremely experienced in the management of warm season grasses.

Commenting during a conversation with Goldom magazine back in October 2014, Gil Hanse said: “I didn’t meet him until after he was selected. He was interviewed at the GCSAA show in San Diego, which I did was unable to attend. Jim Wagner from our company went down and was part of the team that interviewed him. Neil did a great job, he’s got a ton of experience overseas, primarily with warm season grasses.”
"Although he doesn't have experience with Zeon Zoysia, which is the primary grass on-site, he's well equipped to deal with it and has been a Godsend. During the early parts of construction it was basically myself and a couple of guys who work with me down there. Working without a project manager and trying to make sense of it all was difficult, and then Neil showed up and immediately took over as project manager.

"He got very involved in the earth moving and quickly demonstrated what he could bring to the project. He was not only a great turf manager, but also an excellent project manager from the construction standpoint. So he has been the rock of the construction part of the project."

With turfing underway in May 2014, the initial delivery of 18 Jacobsen machines followed a month later. This consisted of three Eclipse2 walking greens mowers, two Eclipse 322 hybrid powered ride-on greens mowers, four Greens King walking mowers, one SLF1800 super light fairway mower, two LF1800 fairway mowers, three Turfcat out-front ride-on rotary mowers, two UK-built TR3 reel mowers for tees and surrounds and a GA30 pedestrian aerator.

"The Eclipse mowers are an important part of the package," said Jacobsen's Frederico Santa-Barbara. "Neil and his team consider them to be the best greens mowers on the market; they are the only mowers with total control over the number of cuts per metre and the reels on the walking versions can be used on the ride-on machine, providing great flexibility. The other key element is that there is absolutely no possibility of an oil spill on the greens, because these are hybrid machines and do not use hydraulic oil."

By the time the first test event takes place early next year a total of 35 Jacobsen turf maintenance machines will be employed at the course. In the interim, Jacobsen's Product Support Manager Andrew Echenique will be providing technical training for Neil and team and he will be part of a team of Jacobsen technicians who will be managing the maintenance facility to ensure that every piece of equipment performs perfectly.

At the Games, over a two-week period the course will host two 60-competitor tournaments with the women's event following the men's competition. It will accommodate 2,500 spectators in grandstands with space for a further 17,500 around the course."

"Legacy" is an important word in Olympic-circles and the Rio Olympic Golf Course is no different. The International Golf Federation (IGF), who successfully lobbied for golf's return to the Games, will organise the two events and are responsible for promoting a positive legacy from the Olympic Games."

Post-Games the course will be the only 18-hole public facility in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil. The Clubhouse will become a multi-purpose venue used for public meetings and social engagements, while the driving range and golf academy will be used for golf practice, instruction and education.

"And perhaps the most important legacy will be the implementation of a youth development programme dedicated to providing young people of all backgrounds opportunities to continue their education and develop their character through golf. Funding from the Brazilian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Brazilian Golf will be used for junior golf initiatives around Brazil."

From an ecological and environmental perspective degraded land will be restored by the creation of green space with local access. The venue will be certified as environmentally sustainable by creating a watershed and providing attenuation, natural filtering and water treatment. The biodiversity of the area will be enhanced by managing the water run-off, thereby conserving the soil structure and restricting erosion. Improvements in the ecosystem will increase native plants and encouraging the local wildlife.

"The return of golf has the potential to increase awareness and interest in golf, increase accessibility to play due to the public nature of 18-hole course and, eventually, increase participation in golf."

At the IGF Olympic Golf Forum at the 2015 PGA Merchandise Show, held in Orlando in January, Peter Dawson, President of the International Golf Federation said: "We began this project of bidding for golf to return to the Olympic Games because so many people around the world badly needed an improved opportunity to increase awareness and participation. The return of golf has the potential to increase awareness and interest in golf, increase accessibility to play due to the public nature of 18-hole course and, eventually, increase participation in golf."

"We were appointed back in the spring of 2014 and one of the deciding factors was that we have a distributor in Brazil. ProGolf has represented the Jacobsen brand in Brazil since 2012 as well as Ryan, Turfco and Smithco; three companies with whom we have excellent working relationships across the globe. ProGolf's core business is golf course construction and they are working as sub-contractors at the Olympic course."

"Our Regional Sales Manager, Frederico Santa-Barbara, has worked extremely diligently in both the run up to our appointment and in the 18 months since. He visits the course at least once a week to ensure that everything is progressing as it should and, of course, we have ProGolf on course permanently in their course construction capacity."

"With just a year to go before the first club is swung in anger, everything now looks in place to ensure that golf's return after a century's absence will have a positive influence on the game. From Jacobsen's perspective we are delighted to be involved in this historic event."
The correct height of cut (HOC) of any grass sward is a subjective issue and dependent on a vast number of variables. To suggest what the correct HOC for golf greens actually is would necessitate a measurable conclusion, but the question arises as to what variables would the result be measured against?

If we look at just two different aspects of greens management: sward pace and plant health then you can see that both of these are measured in different ways and are affected by HOC. They are not however both affected in the same way. A lower HOC will undoubtedly increase pace, a positive effect if that is the intention, but the stress on plant health may be negative. Therefore, the conclusion here is that there is no actual overall ‘right’ height but rather a ‘right’ height for a given circumstance.

Golf course management is very much a business of compromise and trade-offs. It’s probably fair to say that the best Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers are those that manage this continual trade-off in the most effective way. The demands of the golfer for fast smooth greens needs to be considered against overall plant health, putting surface consistency, sustainability, amount of player traffic, cost etc. Greenkeepers make these decisions on a daily basis. As the most frequent maintenance procedure on greens is mowing then HOC is at the forefront of that decision making process.

There are of course some fundamental guidelines with respect to HOC. A less vigorously growing plant is not able to recover from the stresses of a lower HOC and hence during the colder months the HOC is increased and the frequency of mowing is also reduced. In order to maintain decent ball roll and pace, cutting may be supplemented by rolling during these slower growing periods. Similarly, other forms of plant stress such as wilt, drought, excessively wet periods or an occurrence of disease may necessitate an increase in HOC. The reason increasing the HOC helps to combat plant stress is simply due to the fact that the increased HOC means more leaf is left on the plant and thus a greater surface area is available for photosynthesis. When discussing changing the HOC it is important to consider how the HOC is mechanically altered as this in itself can have a positive or negative effect in way the leaf blade is cut. The HOC is normally changed by moving the front or rear roller up or down – only one for macro adjustments. Using the HOC is mechanically altered as this in itself can have a positive or negative effect in way the leaf blade is cut. The HOC is normally changed by moving the front or rear roller up or down – only one for macro adjustments. Using the HOC as being able to switch quickly and effectively from cutting fairways to semi rough areas without the need to return to the shed to change machine or height. The infinite variation also allows you to tailor your height of cut to your requirements on the day subject to conditions if necessary. All Progressive mowers can be configured in many ways to provide a good quality, aesthetically pleasing finish. As with greens, the HOC on fairways in the autumn should raise as the grass growth will usually slow down along with the change in weather conditions.
Oak processionary moth (OPM) is an alien invasive pest presenting high risks to public health as well as defoliating oak trees. OPM first arrived in the UK on oak trees imported from the Netherlands in 2005 and planted in the London Boroughs of Richmond and Ealing. This outbreak has since spread across a significant area of London and into parts of Surrey.

Two later introductions, one at Pangbourne in West Berkshire in 2010 and another in 2012 at West Wickham (Bromley) in south east London, are also ongoing. The jury is still out on the most recent introduction identified in 2014 at the Olympic Park.

The West London and Bromley outbreaks continue to spread with increased numbers of golf courses affected or immediately threatened.

Protected Zone status
European Union legislation recognising those parts of the UK outside of OPM affected areas as a ‘Protected Zone’ was introduced last October. The government now has a statutory duty to prevent infestation of the Protected Zone and has restructured its OPM survey and management programme accordingly.

The original outbreak is under containment. Future management is based on a new ‘2015 Core Zone’ surrounded by a redrawn and expanded ‘buffer area’ called the ‘Control Zone’. Action required by landowners, and who pay for any remedial OPM treatments carried out, depends on whether affected trees are in the Core Zone or the Control Zone.

Within the Core Zone it is the tree owner’s responsibility to check for OPM and to take action. The Forestry Commission (FC) says the landowner will not be legally required to do any work. But, it reserves the right to issue Statutory Plant Health Notices requiring the removal of OPM infestations in the Core Zone which could spread into and become established in the Control Zone.

FC says that it will (in general terms) take charge of all aspects of treatment with no costs to the owner for infested trees on privately owned land in the Control Zone. For all other infested trees in the Control Zone, such as those in public parks and streets, OPM management will still be mandatory. However, any work will have to be done at the expense of the local authority owner. Golf courses owned by local authorities will presumably fall into this category.

Core Zone and Control Zones
The ‘2015 Core Zone’ now comprises the whole of Richmond, Hammersmith and Fulham, together with parts of Ealing, Hounslow, Kingston Upon Thames, Merton and Wandsworth.

The surrounding Control Zone covers those parts of Ealing, Hounslow, Kingston Upon Thames, Merton and Wandworth in the Core Zone, together with the entire land area of Hillingdon, Harrow, Brent, Barnet, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Camden, Harlington, Hillingdon, Hackney, City of London, Tower Hamlets, Southwark, Lambeth, Bromley, Croydon and Lewisham. Four districts in Surrey (Esher, Guildford, Epsom and Ewell and Runnymede) and Slough in Buckinghamshire are also included.

Inclusion in this Control Zone of the London Borough of Bromley,
Croydon and Lewisham recognises infestations recorded there in 2014 and which have spread from West Wickham. FC appears confident of having eradicated the newest introduction at The Olympic Park. Neither Newham nor Waltham Forest and Redbridge are included in the Control Zone, despite adult male moths having been secured there in pheromone traps during late summer 2014.

Geography behind demarcation of these OPM Management Zones’ in and around London is not altogether logical with regard to the 2014 distribution of OPM. The Northolt area of Ealing and the Feltham area in Hounslow are not in the Core Zone even though a high infestation was recorded in both places in 2014. Conversely Hammersmith and Fulham was essentially OPM free in 2014 except along the River Thames on the border with neighbouring Wandsworth, although the entire borough has been placed in the Core Zone.

The situation at Pangbourne is completely different because FC still believes it can eradicate OPM from the area, but is no less difficult to fathom because the exact location of the small residual OPM population is unknown. So there is no Core Zone but a relatively large Control Zone covering the whole of West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire and Reading.

The rest of the UK outside of the Core Zone and these two Control Zones is the ‘Protected Zone’.

Control options

Proactive control options for OPM are mechanical nest removal and spraying with insecticide supported by insect pest monitoring. The latter will include deployment of pheromone traps during the late summer adult flight period to secure male moths, early spring monitoring to pinpoint appearance of the new larvae in March/April, and post spraying surveys starting in June to locate surviving OPM nests.

Mechanical nest removal is by far the most expensive and hazardous option and usually only carried out when OPM nests are found too late in the season for insecticide spraying to be effective – or in ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) where spraying with insecticide is not an option or very limited. For health and safety reasons mechanical nest removal should only be carried out by specialists.

Three insecticides are approved for ground based spray application to control OPM. They are deltamethrin, diflubenzuron and the bacterial insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki. There are significant differences between these three insecticides in potency and persistency as well as potential collateral damage to non-target organisms.

Deltamethrin is a highly potent and persistent synthetic pyrethroid insecticide acting through contact and ingestion. Only one application is usually required. Deltamethrin will kill the larger and more resilient late spring/summer adult flight period to the environment and requires a follow up second spray for effective OPM control.

Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki (BTk) is an entomopathogenic bioinsecticide based on a bacterial toxin to ‘punch’ through. Spray timing is critical and both spray applications are essentially required while OPM larvae are still at the L1 or L2 stages.

Deltamethrin is clearly first choice when the fastest and most effective kill of OPM across the widest spray window is required. BTk will be preferred if least possible effect on environmental and ecological integrity has a higher priority than most rapid effect and eradication. Diflubenzuron would appear to offer a ‘middle way’ between these two. Golf courses in the Control Zone served with Statutory Control Orders and with FC taking charge of control operations should enquire as to whether they have any choice about which insecticide is used.

Hands-on OPM management at The Richmond Golf Club

To find out what’s been happening on the ground I visited The Richmond Golf Club in the heart of the Core Zone to speak with Course Manager and BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG who has been battling OPM since 2010.
The Richmond was one of the first golf courses to sustain OPM infestation, and no-one has greater hands-on experience of managing it.

Being inside the Core Zone is bad enough but the course adjoins Richmond Park which exacerbates the OPM problem. Richmond Park is a SSSI which limits insecticide spraying.

Les and the team have sprayed and successfully controlled OPM since 2011. However, adult moths from Richmond Park fly in during late summer to lay eggs on some of the hundreds of oak trees across the golf course, causing infestation the following year.

OPM was first found on the course in 2010 but too late in the season, and the insect pest’s life cycle, for insecticide spraying to be effective. Specialist contractors were hired for mechanical nest removal, a lengthier and more expensive procedure. In 2011 the club hired a contractor to spray all the oak trees on the course using deltamethrin insecticide.

Les said: “The health and safety of our members has always been our top priority and that is why we use deltamethrin insecticide. It offers the quickest and most effective control of OPM and with just a single spray”. Deltamethrin was used again in 2012 and 2013, this time carried out by the greenkeeping team.

“We researched the requirements carefully and invested in new safety equipment including face shields fitted with visors. We have been able to use our existing sprayer set up – a John Deere HD200 sprayer mounted on a John Deere ProGator – equipped with a hand lance to deliver a powerful jet.” He added they completed the operation at a fraction of the £5,500 that it cost to spray in 2011.

OPM larvae feed on a wide range of oak species including the two English oaks (Quercus robur) pedestrian oak and Q. petraea/sessile oak) and Q. cerris (Turkey oak). All these species are sprayed but some individual trees are left untreated for ecological reasons.

“We have some Ancient English oaks around 500 years old with exceptional ecological richness and which are therefore not sprayed, and we leave a 50 metre unsprayed buffer zone between the course and Richmond Park’s SSSI.”

PC issued a Statutory Control Order and paid for a contractor to spray The Richmond Golf Course in 2014 but not this year under the spray The Richmond towards the end of May when oak trees around 100m from Richmond Park were already carrying significant numbers of early formed OPM nests on the main branches. “We will spray during the next couple of days using deltamethrin insecticide to clear all these larvae and nests,” said Les. Larvae were already well into the L3 stage and well within the window” and control capability of deltamethrin but outside of the safe (effective) window for spraying with BTs.

Les explained how the club is fortunate to have a qualified arborist on its greenkeeping team – Tony Bartram - who starts to inspect the trees for hatching larvae early in spring.

Just days before I visited The Richmond a team from Syngenta had experimentally treated a single mature oak tree using the company’s new micro-injection system for the application of emamectin benzoate, a systemic insecticide that controls OPM. Les and his team will observe the tree over the next few seasons.

There are many potential advantages of using a tree injection system but the one that sticks out in my mind is all about application timing in relation to larval hatching and feeding.

The advantage of using tree injection is that the insecticide is already inside the tree when the newly hatched, most vulnerable and easy to kill L1 larvae start to feed on the new oak foliage.

OPM larvae start to feed on the new oak foliage with the newly assigned EU ‘Protected Zone’ status for UK. I visited The Richmond towards the end of May when oak trees around 100m from Richmond Park were already carrying significant numbers of early formed OPM nests on the main branches. “We will spray during the next couple of days using deltamethrin insecticide to clear all these larvae and nests,” said Les. Larvae were already well into the L3 stage and well within the window” and control capability of deltamethrin but outside of the safe (effective) window for spraying with BTs. OPM larvae feed on a wide range of oak species including the two English oaks (Quercus robur) pedestrian oak and Q. petraea/sessile oak) and Q. cerris (Turkey oak). All these species are sprayed but some individual trees are left untreated for ecological reasons.

“We have some Ancient English oaks around 500 years old with exceptional ecological richness and which are therefore not sprayed, and we leave a 50 metre unsprayed buffer zone between the course and Richmond Park’s SSSI.”
As Royal Wimbledon Golf Club celebrates its 150 year centenary, Laurence Pithie visited this unique club to find out about its past, current work programmes and what it plans for the future.
The club which was formed in 1865 by the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers on Wimbledon Common first consisted of seven holes, before being fully extended in 1871 under the auspices of Tom Dunne, who was appointed as the club’s first professional.

In 1907, the club commenced construction of their own course, designed by Willie Park on 240 acres of nearby Warren Farm; the reason being to escape ‘picnic parties’ and nurseries with ‘perambulators’. In 1919 the club approached Harry Colt, who was a former member of the club to redesign the course which opened for play five years later.

Other than a few small changes since WR2, the ‘Colt’ layout remains largely the same to this day. Throughout its history, Royal Wimbledon has played a key role in influencing the game of golf. As well as being the third oldest golf club in England, it was one of seven sponsors for the Amateur Championship. JH Taylor was a previous professional, while past members have included Bernard Darwin, Roger Wethered and the Duke of York. To date eight members of RWGC have served as Captains of the R&A. The formation of Royal St Georges in Sandwich and the course layout in 1887 was the brainchild of Henry Lamb and Peter Purves; both influential members of RWGC. The club has a rich history and is one of 65 clubs in the UK with Royal patronage.

Club Objectives
First and foremost Royal Wimbledon is a club for its members, being only eight miles from the centre of London. Tasked with its smooth running and efficient management is Robert Brener, a former Course Manager at St Melion, before taking on management responsibility at a number of clubs including South Essex, Merrist Wood and Knole Park. Robert’s overall experience in course and club management has been instrumental since his appointment in 2011. A key objective has been instrumental since his appointment in the club to redesign the course from course to course. The other key aspect of the strategic plan was the appointment of course architect Tom Mackenzie, to examine all aspects of course design and integral features: his brief being to maximise the potential of the site.

Strategic Plan
Mackenzie’s review will include the overall design and length of the course as well as individual sight lines, bunkering, tee positioning and greens surrounds.

One key aspect will be to compare the aerial photographs of 1926, with the current layout; the most notable difference being the loss of heather and the increase of trees and general scrub. Sean takes up the story.

“Since I already knew the course reasonably well and the challenges faced, it was essential that management standards had to improve. Rather than explain what I wanted to achieve, I invited all of my team to make the short trip across the A3 to Coombe Hill to witness at first hand, turf quality, course set-up and presentation. This would help focus attention on raising standards, culminating in the team being more flexible in working practices and achieving a higher skill set; these being fundamental for the club to progress.

“With ten full time staff and two seasonals it was down to me to make this happen. However, starting work in April, the emphasis was on a gentle start and focusing on the priorities during the main summer season, which required a higher standard of course conditioning and presentation, especially on greens, tees and fairways.

“Recovery at this time of year was good and after a few passes with the turf iron along with sufficient foliar feeds, putting surfaces were soon restored and with increased firmness and pace. At the end of the season we also took the opportunity to extend the greens to their original size which meant gradually lowering the HOC, followed by coring and dressing to improve the existing profile. The next challenge was to introduce more run-off areas around many greens whereby longer grass was removed and then mown at apron height. This required aerifying and top dressing these areas as well as ensuring there was an adequate irrigation coverage to avoid major drought stress. Taking this route, the ‘running’ approach shot is now a viable option and makes the game more interesting and challenging, albeit with larger putting surfaces; this being one of the architects objectives. Work to tees and fairways was more of a tweak in terms of intensity to frequencies of cut, presentation, divot filling and so on, while bunkers continued to be raked daily with sand faces being smooth raked and occasionally rolled.”

Working Progress: Main playing areas

Sean continued “The challenge in regard to greens performance was to reduce an OM layer located at a depth below 25mm which was out of reach for deep scarifying. During August we deep tined the greens to over 200mm depth using 17mm tines, then back filling with sand which required around 90 tons in total. This was largely hand brushed into the holes to avoid being too aggressive on the turf. Once complete, the greens were solid tined with conventional 13mm tines at 50mm spacings and then sand dressed and brushed again; the latter by powered brush.

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Working Progress: Roughs and Trees

“One of the strategic plans is to return as much of the course as possible to one of a heathland environment as identified in past aerial photographs. Tree and scrub management has gradually changed the course by affecting sight lines, causing shading and tree root issues as well as making some areas of rough impregnable. Key areas were identified for tree removal, scrub clearance and weed control along with preparing areas for heather establishment; the latter being at an early stage of development.

“The most notable difference is on the short 13th where hole visibility has vastly improved. In order to establish heather, the ground was cleared of all unwanted vegetation, loosely cultivated and ‘brushings’ applied by hand after being collected previously. The existing areas of heather and grassland have been treated with varying systemic herbicides such as Laser, Dow Shield, Rescue and Relay; this depending on what vegetation needs to be controlled and where.
This is an ongoing programme since not all areas within this large site are easily accessible by conventional sprayer.

“Other course work completed to date has been the provision of a 174 metre deep borehole which provides sufficient water to meet the needs of our extensive Rainbird Nimbus 2 system; delivering water to greens, tees, surrounds and fairways. This is stored in three tanks with a total capacity of 600 cubic metres. We also installed a rubber modular path on hole 13, whereby it is filled with soil and seed and provides an all-purpose ‘grass’ path.

“Our first bunker trial was completed on hole nine where a ‘visual’ fairway bunker was remodelled. We will probably ‘fine-tune’ this bunker style and examine available options for future lining.”

Summary

Planning, teamwork and progression spring to mind when reviewing the changes that have taken place at Royal Wimbledon during the past year. There is a good ‘feel’ within the team that things are happening both on and off the course and for the better. New skills are being developed, especially in regards to agronomy and grassland management while changes are being planned for extending and improving both storage and staff facilities. New equipment has already been purchased for use on greens, grassland and woodland which are central to the clubs progression. Strategic planning is well underway and once submitted to the club for approval, many more changes will follow. This is an exciting time for a club with a unique history.
Meditation and greenkeeping

Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager at Rungsted Golf Club in Denmark, has recently discovered the ancient art of meditation. Here, he explains how it’s helped him cope with some of the stresses greenkeeping – and life – has thrown at him and his experience during a five-day ‘silent retreat’.

When I tell people I work on a golf course, they often reply “wow, what a great job, outside in the sun cutting grass without a care in the world!” If only this was true.

I grew up wanting to be a professional golfer, but I soon found out that the only way to do that was to work on a golf course for a living, so I started working on one as a 16-year-old. I then turned professional as a 17-year-old and worked my way up to being a greenkeeper.

I had no idea what meditation was just five months ago. A member at my club who is a personal friend of the Dalai Lama got me interested in it. I went along to the Clear Light Centre in Copenhagen and met a teacher named Adam Starr, who was trained by a Tibetan Monk - the Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso. Gyatso has opened 1,200 centres in 40 countries promoting Kadampa Traditional Meditation.

I started by taking a meditation class once a week. I was basically taught how to meditate and now I practice with guided meditation CDs every day for 20 minutes at home. One Saturday a month I attend a full day workshop. My first workshop was given by a very special guest – Gen Kelsang Tuchchen, a Buddhist nun, who is the Spiritual Director for Scandinavia based in Norway. Tuchchen was also trained by the Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso.

I was spellbound by the wisdom and experience she shared with us that day. She invited me to a five day silent retreat over Easter this year on Concentration Meditation which she specialised in.

It is very difficult to put into words what I experienced during those five days. What I can say is that it was very powerful stuff which has changed my life. There were 19 people there altogether including four nuns. The retreat was focused on concentration. Our aim was to hold an imaginary object in our mind and focus upon it without losing it.

Normally, our minds are so busy we get distracted thinking about other things like what we’re having for lunch. We then lose our concentration and our object so we need to start again. This process went on until we had control of our mind without getting distracted and losing our object.

Something special happened to me during the last two days of the retreat. I had turned so deep into my mind that my mind went totally quiet and peaceful. No distractions - just total calm existed in my body. The more you train and practice, there is a slow transformation of your mind and attitude of how you look at life. I spoke to another member of the group afterwards who told me his family and friends remarked how he’s a much happier and calmer man six months after discovering meditation.

I drove home with a doctor after the retreat. Neither was wanted to talk. Afterwards, we were so calm. It took us six hours to turn our phones back on as we both wanted to let this sensation of inner peace to remain for as long as possible.

Everyone has the ability to change the way they think. With daily meditation at home and instruction at a Kadampa school (of which there are many – see the article for more details) we all have the ability to let go of our negative thoughts and worries and replace them with inner peace and happiness.

In time, the problems we encounter will no longer blight our minds. We are taught to let these kind of situations go so that they will never penetrate your mind again. If you are suffering from depression, anxiety, panic attacks or stress these illnesses can be eliminated by training meditation over a period of time.

What this training does is follow a tradition which is a few thousand years old. In modern day terms it is like having the hard drive wiped in your computer and having it reprogrammed.

The mind is trained to let go of all the years of negative thoughts, anger, frustration, criticism and problems of the past and bring you into the present day. Something that had happened years ago is in fact just a thought in your mind.

Let this thought go and it no longer affects you. It can come back but it is again. All of this is possible through training.

It’s important to understand that this is not about pushing religion onto anyone. You do not have to become a Buddhist to follow this training.
Paul Miller returns to look at turf quality through the lens of soil and explores the east of Scotland for the history of soil characteristics.
Links Soil Pore Space Distribution

Pie chart 1:

- 53% Mineral
- 21% Air
- 5% Water
- 21% Organic

Pie chart 2:

- 52% Mineral
- 22% Air
- 3% Water
- 23% Organic

Typical Links Sand - Particle Size Distribution

Graph 1:

- Very Fine Coarse Sand
- Coarse Sand
- Medium Sand
- Silt
- Clay

Typical USGA Rootzone - Particle Size Distribution

Graph 2:

- Very Fine Coarse Sand
- Coarse Sand
- Medium Sand
- Silt
- Clay

Links Soil Pore Space Distribution

by the sizes and shapes of the individual mineral particles. Let’s now try to connect that idea with the soils of the links. As previously mentioned sand is the predominant size fraction within links soils, but bear with me as it gets a little bit more involved than that. Sand particles range in size from 2mm down to 0.05mm in diameter, which is quite a wide range and which therefore means that considerable ‘packing’ of particles can take place. So in our industry we look far more closely at the sands, and sub-divide them into five sub-bands, indicated in table 1.

When we then run a links sand through a set of sieves we typically find a particle size distribution as illustrated in graph 1, where we can see that we have a predominant fraction commonly in the ‘fine sand’ or ‘medium sand’ categories, frequently 70% or more on a single sieve and upwards of 80% on the two ‘most loaded’ adjacent sieves. In other words the particles are pretty uniform in size, don’t pack very well together (visually a shoe box over-filled with glass marbles and you’re trying to get the lid on) and therefore have large spaces between them. This manifests itself in fast drainage (percolation) rates and high air / low water soils at field capacity. To connect this idea further I’ll state quite clearly that these are the soil physical properties favoured by fescues in particular, and by bentgrasses, two grass types whose natural habitat is the sandy environment of the links. OK, so far so good – we’ve got the idea of these sandy soils with the certain pore space distribution, but what does that look like? In general terms when sandy links soils drain to field capacity in their natural setting they reach a pore space distribution shown by pie chart 1, showing the internal space of the soil to be evenly distributed between air and water. It’s all very well knowing that, but what can we take from it, how can we use it in modern golf course management?

In the early 1960s the United States Golf Association were clearly concerned about the winter condition of golf greens, specifically with poor internal drainage and water movement, and set about to research the topic and propose a solution.

I am unfamiliar with the whole process, but the solution to the problem was a recommendation for a method of putting green construction, or ‘The USGA Green’. This has effectively become the industry default position for greens construction, other than where sandy soils can be found on site, but often even in those circumstances, and among the aspects of that recommendation is one for the particle size distribution of the artificially manufactured growing medium, or ‘rootzone’. Not surprisingly the rootzone has a high sand content, and typically shows a particle size distribution as shown in chart 2. It looks familiar, 70% or thereby on a single sieve, and 80% + on the two ‘most loaded’ adjacent sieves. More importantly, when it drains into its gravel carpet it reaches a pore space distribution as shown in pie chart 2.

My interpretation of this is that the USGA green attempts to emulate the original sandy ground of the links, producing conditions favourable by the fine turf species, and by doing so aims to facilitate the production of turf of a similar quality to those old places for play.

For the first time the technological solution mimics mother nature! What we have looked at in this article is strictly the physical characteristics – air and water content – of nature’s growing medium for fine turf (the links sands) and the scientific solution (the USGA rootzone) but we’ve mentioned nothing of the nutritional or biological aspects of these soils. A second article will provide some thoughts on those aspects of soils for fine turf.
There is no denying that women are few and far between in the greenkeeping ranks. I recently completed an audit of how many female greenkeepers are currently in training.

Five of the larger UK colleges responded and although between them they have hundreds of greenkeepers in training, the total of female students was just two. To be honest this is a pretty dire situation with the proportion of males to females lower than in traditionally male orientated industries such as engineering and construction.

When discussions are held with Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers on this issue, they say they have absolutely no problem with the thought of employing females, and the standard response is “we never get any female applicants, so what can we do?”

To look into this further I interviewed Susan Reeve, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Castle Royle Golf & Country Club, to discuss her career and why there are so few female greenkeepers in the industry.

Susan, how did you get into greenkeeping?

My journey into greenkeeping began when I started taking golf lessons. I initially began working in the pro shop, the following summer I worked with the greenkeepers and loved every minute of it. It has been the only job I’ve had where I have always looked forward to my day.

What are your key responsibilities?

One of my main roles is joining Course Manager Chris Brook in treating pests and diseases as well as regular applications of nutrients for the greens, tees and approaches. I am required to run the team of eight when Chris is away as well as inducting and training new team members. I assist putting the monthly newsletter together, I am also responsible for keeping the health and safety files particularly the COSHH files and the spraying records up to date.

What qualifications do you hold?

I have a BSc in Environmental Science. The modular degree course allowed me to study soil science, plant pathology, cell biology and water resources to name but a few, which I have found to be very useful in my current studies as well as giving me a better understanding of turf management. I am currently completing my Work Based Diploma at Level 3 and I am finding that the course has helped me develop important fundamental skills.

What are the most satisfying aspects of your role?

Assessing course conditions and treating problems effectively are parts of the job that I find rewarding. But there is no denying that ensuring the course is set up at its best for competitions, particularly in the summer, has to be the most satisfying.

Does greenkeeping run in your family?

Yes, my husband is a Course Manager and my brother-in-law is a Golf Professional.

Why do you think there are so few women in the industry?

Well, it’s pretty much always been a male dominated industry and few people (outside of golf) really know exactly what greenkeeping entails. So, quite often jobs get advertised where they are only open by greenkeepers already in the industry or are not necessarily promoted to encourage female applicants. I am not alone though – I know there are a number of female BIGGA members working on courses across the UK and three at clubs in Berkshire alone.

What do you think could attract more women to greenkeeping?

A greater awareness about the profession and the professional and personal opportunities it offers. I personally believe that greenkeeping is losing out by not having more females in the industry. Most industries now recognise the importance of diversity in the workforce and the different skill sets they can bring.

So if female workers have so much to offer then why are there so few in the industry?

This answer is not as straight-forward as you might think.

Many other closely related industries that were once male dominated occupations are experiencing increasing numbers of women in the workforce. Construction and engineering have seen increased numbers of female employees yet greenkeeping remains an almost exclusively male workforce.

There are a number of issues that contribute to the lack of females in the industry, perhaps one of the most important is recruitment. Golf club owners and managers have often said to me that women never apply. The thing many seem to miss is that this is most likely because they haven’t actually seen a job advertisement. I also think a lot of females probably believe the job is not advertising for women so skip over the possibility that they could apply.

To overcome this issue, clubs need to consider how they advertise vacancies. They should think about what their advertisement says about their club’s culture. They should also think about the skills they have listed as required by the applicant. By making the advertisement less specific, they may find a more diverse set of candidates apply for the post.

Having a clear diversity statement in the advert can provide a message to potential female employees that an application is at least worthwhile.

Another way of increasing the diversity of the workforce is to create a pool of potential e.g. working with a local college might help to attract female students to a club. If they have a good work experience at a golf club, there is a chance that they might consider it as a career.

Perhaps just as importantly they will talk about it with their friends opening up the possibility of other females considering it as a career option. Clubs should work with their local colleges and training providers and offer to deliver presentations to get the club’s name known to the students so the thought of applying for a job there is less daunting.

Interviews need to be conducted fairly. To make an interview fair it’s important to prepare a set of questions that you ask each candidate and vary from these as little as possible.

This way everyone is judged on equal criteria. Also, if possible ensure that the interview committee has a balance of gender and this balance of gender is used when drawing up the list of interview questions.

Of course although these points have all been aimed at female employees they could equally apply to other minority areas of our diverse population. I have spoken to lots of people about the culture of golf and I really believe it has the potential and wants to become more inclusive. I believe it’s not the industry not wanting to be more diverse it’s more about the industry making itself a more attractive career option to close that gender gap.
The final countdown

Who will win the first prize in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition? A Toro Scholarship to the University of Massachusetts plus visits to the Toro Company and the Golf Industry Show in San Diego awaits.

One of the industry’s most enduring competitions returns next month as we wait to find out who will succeed Kevin O’Neill as Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

The final will begin on Monday 14 September and after a series of introductions, the candidates will join a discussion group hosted by BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG. This will focus on various industry issues.

Tuesday sees the finalists take part in a multiple choice quiz, complete an essay question and be interviewed by a panel from Toro and BRGGA before the winner is announced. Two runners up will be invited to the Continu to Learn programme at BTME 2016, and all six will be given BIGGA membership for a year.

Good luck to all the finalists!

Congratulations to the final six who have made it through to the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Here are pen profiles of the group.

**STEFAN CARTER**
Assistant Greenkeeper
The Wentworth Club
Myerscough College
Nominated by Nick Lush

Stefan started his greenkeeping career six years ago at Forest Hill Golf Club in Leicester, and after completing his NVQ Level 2 he steadily rose up through the ranks to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. He then moved to Bowood Golf & Country Club before recently joining the greenkeeping ranks at Wentworth. He has plenty of tournament experience after volunteering at the British Open, the Senior Amateur Championship and has now worked at two BMW PGA Championships.

**SUSAN REEVE**
First Assistant Greenkeeper
Castle Royle Golf & Country Club
Oaklands College
Nominated by Andy Wight

After taking golf lessons at Castle Royle, Susan started working in the club’s pro shop part-time. She then joined the greenkeeping team one summer and “loved every minute of it”!

This led to her securing her current role as First Assistant Greenkeeper. She has a degree in Environmental Science and is currently studying her Level 3 Diploma in Sports Turf through distance learning at Oaklands College.

**SAM SWEETZER**
Assistant Greenkeeper
Rushmore Golf Club
Myerscough College
Nominated by Simon Wight

Sam began working at Royal Ascot Golf Club as a greenkeeper before heading to university to study Psychology. However, he realised he still loved greenkeeping and after university returned to the greenkeeping team at Royal Ascot. He then secured a role at West Hill, a heathland course in Surrey. He has extensive tournament experience including twice volunteering at the BMW PGA Championship, twice at US Open Qualifiers at Walton Heath and also the Ladies British Masters.

**JON-JO PITTS**
Assistant Greenkeeper
Royston Golf Club
Oaklands College
Nominated by Steve Allen

Jon-Jo is a relatively recently arrival into the greenkeeping industry and has been working at Royston – an 18 hole heathland course in Hertfordshire – for two years. Prior to becoming a greenkeeper at the club he worked part-time in the pro shop as he studied for his A-Levels, then during time off from university he joined the greenkeeping team helping with regular tasks such as bunker maintenance and strimming.

**STEPHEN THORNE**
Deputy Course Manager
Rushmore Golf Club
Myerscough College
Nominated by Nick Lush

Stephen’s first greenkeeping role was at Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club in 2007, before leaving to start his own lawn care business. He then desired a return to greenkeeping and applied for a role at Rushmore, and he joined the course in Salisbury in 2012.

Stephen and the team have completed a variety of agronomic projects in the meantime and he was promoted to Deputy Course Manager in January 2014. He is currently Secretary of the BRGGA South Coast Section Committee and also pens the Section’s Around the Green notes.

**DAVID STEWART**
Assistant Greenkeeper
Walmley Golf Club
Pershore – Worcestershire College
Nominated by Karen Martin

David has spent three and a half years working as a greenkeeper at Walmley, a parkland course in Sutton Coldfield. He has been involved in several major projects on the course including constructing new tees, redesigning old tees and creating a new drainage system.

He is currently studying his Level 2 Horticulture and Sports turf diploma.
Social media has opened up a whole new world of communication. For greenkeepers and course managers, often working in the close confines of a club environment, it brings the opportunity to talk to each other and share experiences quickly and easily. It also has the ability to reach directly to players, to give a better understanding of what they are doing, and why.

One of the challenges is which of the plethora of social media platforms to choose? You can Yik Yak, Whisper, Shout or Tsu. Even Bebo’s back. Almost every day there’s a new app or tool linked to social media, and as the technology moves forwards so rapidly having an established on-line presence becomes more important than ever.

It’s going on all around, in every business, leisure activity and everyday life. It’s certainly not going to go away, so we may as well embrace it, or risk getting left far behind - very quickly, warns Matt Nutter, Course Manager at East Berkshire Golf Club. A keen advocate of the technology outside of work, it has been a natural progression to utilise Facebook and Twitter to help communicate what he is doing on the course.

Golfers - even the older players - are increasingly tech savvy. They are perfectly adept at using Facebook to see pictures of grandchildren; tweeting the latest offers at Lidl, or looking up tee-time information online. There are as many members in the clubhouse viewing their iPad using WiFi, as reading the paper.

“Social media lets us reach them in one go, whether they be regular players at the club most days, or just occasional players who want to know what is going on,” said Matt. “If we tell them what we are doing, we very rarely get any problem or complaints. The club’s Facebook page has been invaluable for that, and using Twitter we can instantly keep them up to date with progress and results.”

Matt finds that Twitter is the more effective route to let people know what is happening, but Facebook is his preferred way to share information and develop discussion - both with golfers and other greenkeepers.

Other discussion groups, such as the BIGGA forum, provide valuable contact and conversation of experiences. However, some chat rooms are dominated by a limited number of individuals, of varying ability, who are only too willing to pontificate their opinion on every subject.

He remains wary of posting too much advice in open online discussion. “Some topics are highly technical and need talking through, rather than a short post that could be taken out of context or interpreted in the wrong way,” he warned. “If I see there is a question posted by a greenkeeper where I might be able to help, I’d rather give him a call and discuss in person.”

Matt remains clear that an online message cannot replace the value of personal contact. “We still have the blackboard in the clubhouse, detailing the current activities and Two BIGGA members – Matt Nutter and Dan Lightfoot MG – explore the importance of social media in greenkeeping, offer tips and discuss some of the challenges it poses
course report, I also believe that getting the Green Committee and Club Manager out on the course is irreplaceable to explain what we want to do and how the investment will benefit the club.

Gardens always gripe at any disruption through the maintenance programme, but where he can now tweet or Facebook post pictures of before, during and after essential operations it reminds them of just what was done and why - and how they are now enjoying great conditions because of it.

That’s proven especially successful with projects such as bunker reconstruction, for environmental initiatives and Rescue treatments to thin out rough, for example.

Sending a picture of the team working in the mud on a miserable wet day in winter is an invaluable reminder of what goes on behind the scenes, and the effort that goes on all year round to enhance the course playing conditions.

Matt believes the secret of online communication to members is to keep messages simple and focussed on the benefit to them. “It is very easy to overcomplicate what we write and assume too much knowledge on their part,” he advised. The only exception has been some of Matt’s GoPro movies, where members have been fascinated to watch the greenkeeping operations in practice, which had created great respect for the team.

He reports that social media can be extremely rewarding in giving instant feedback on a message posted, and that seeing what other greenkeepers are doing can trigger a reminder or stimulate an idea. Matt is also aware that he is current and topical demands regular updates and activity, which has to be balanced.

Twitter takes a while to learn and fiddly to refine, but is now very quick and easy to operate, yet within hours posts can be history and gone. Facebook was extremely easy to set up, and has the advantage of a longer presence.

“The key for Matt has been to link together the Twitter and Facebook accounts, saving time and giving a broader reach, and plans to integrate with a new club website that will further help communicate with members.

“Most of the social media activities are virtually instant within the working day,” he reported. “However, I do spend more time compiling the blog entries that are more detailed and we want to get right. Communication is really part of the job, so anything that makes that easier and more effective has to be welcomed.”

Social media provides an incredibly valuable resource for greenkeepers to gain, and to share, technical information and experiences, believes Syngenta Business Manager, Daniel Lightfoot MSc.

As a former Course Manager and Master Greenkeeper, he fully embraced and utilised the opportunities for education and learning – as well as the social aspect of interacting with other greenkeepers.

Dan cited his use of @green-castuk to Twitter news of what has been seen in trials and what is happening on course, as well as to re-tweet greenkeepers’ experiences, a route to instantly providing relevant information quicker and more effectively than ever before. Using pertinent hashtags - such as #turfunderthemicroscope - gathers together topical turf management information and links.

“Social media is a main area of focus as a future communication tool for the industry, so it is imperative that all involved get connected with appropriate links,” advised Dan.

“We will still be doing meetings, briefings and events, such as Turf Science Live and BTME, where personal contact is so important to deliver a depth of knowledge and understanding.

“But social media, combined with details from on-line video and website information on Greencast, for example, enables the experiences to be shared far wider and reach even more people,” he added.

“With more information readily available to help enhance turf management, it’s a really exciting time to learn and exploit the potential of social media.”

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**Events Coming Up**

**NORTH**

The committee have sent out the entry form for the Autumn outing at Kemmey Golf Club. We expect this one to be very popular so get your form in early to ensure a tee time. Kemmey is a lovely track and always in great condition, so if you have never played in an outing before, so please come along.

**CENTRAL**

The Autumn Outing at Drumoig Golf Course is on Tuesday 8 September.

**EAST**

The Willie Woods at Broomieknowe is on August 20, entry forms in ASAP please. Autumn meeting at Cardrona on September 22.

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**NORTHERN IRELAND**

Entry forms for the BIGGA Northern Ireland Golf Championship at Clandeboy Golf Club on Friday 2 October will be issued in due course.

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**SOUTHWEST OF SCOTLAND**

Autumn Golf Outing 3 September Brodick GC

Pre Open course walk 24 September Royal Troon Barns - 10am followed by 2 course lunch Anchorage Toun 11am.

Ecology Course Walk Peeblesh GC 10 November with Bob Taylor STRI.

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**News**

**NORTH**

I spent a day down at Gullane for the Scottish Open, the course was in awesome condition and the pros seemed to relish the challenge. It’s always great to spend a day with other greenkeepers, chatting and extending your knowledge about course management. It always helps when the sun is shining also!

The Open Championship will have also come and gone at St. Andrews by now and again, I’m sure it will have presented a challenge to the best players in the world. Although I haven’t seen the course, I’m told it is as good as it ever been from an agronomic point of view.

Not much to report within the North Section regarding staff moving around, but can I remind everyone to please send any information to myself and Neil.

**CENTRAL**

Well, what a week at The Open. The only thing that was missing from the weather was snow and hail. Gordon and his team were hard at it to get the course cleared of water on the Friday only to be hit by wind delays on the Saturday leaving a Monday finish.

Open week also meant a bit more income for clubs around St Andrews, with the demand for tee times more than doubling. Meanwhile at Leven Links they were trying to get more water on the course with an update to the irrigation system.

By the time you have read this there would have been a few other tournaments played around the region. I hope the weather played along with Dunonald Links for the Ladies Scottish Open, Muncarr Links for the Paul Lawrie Matchplay and Trump Turnberry Resort for the Women’s British Open.

**EAST**

wow! What a week at Gullane, I was fortunate enough to be volunteering at the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open and heard so much positive feedback from spectactors, both local and overseas. Congratulations to Stewart Duff and his team and Gullane Golf Club for a fabulous week.

Good luck Colin Irvine and his team at Muirfield for the Scottish Amateur Championship, being played as this rolls off the presses and Chris Yruma and his team at The Royal Burgess for the Scottish Boys, a week earlier.

Congratulations to Ross Ovens at The RInburgh on his promotion and also to Derek Pullarten at Murrayfield Golf Club on gaining his B&c (Hons) in Sportsturf Science and Management via online study through Myerscough College.

The weather certainly tested the field at Gullane but hasn’t prevented us getting on with work at our home venues, members and visitors shouldn’t have any complaints going by the pictures on social media except for the idiots who do this kind of thing! Both photos are in the middle of a green!

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

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

Last month CAPEB held their annual graduation ceremony. Its Greenmount campus is home to Northern Ireland’s Golf and Greenskeeping Academy which was opened in 2009 by Rory McIlroy. Graduation day is the culmination of students’ hard work. Special prizes for top student on their respective courses went to Chris McDoanld of Portrush G.C. and Conchobhar Kerr of Portrush Portrush G.C. The event was attended by John Young from BRIGA who presented the BRIGA award for best student in the Level 2 Diploma in Sport Turf Greenskeeping to Ian Ross of Malone GC.

Speaking of Malone, I write this on the back of visiting Malone GC, Belfast, where the Vagliano Trophy was held on 26/27 June.

Course Manager, Mike Norman, and his team deserve special praise for setting the course up exquisitely for this LGU team event.

One of the tightest Vagliano Trophy matches for many years ended with the Continent of Europe extending their possession of the cup but in a terrific final session of singles, Great Britain and Ireland went down fighting. The final result was: Continent of Europe 12.5; GB and Ireland 11.5.

A BIGGA Northern Ireland Facebook page has now been created and it would be great if you could add pictures or information.

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**Thanks to Patrons**

**CENTRAL**

Special thanks to Toro, Barrenby, Syngenta, Aquatrols / Farmura and Atkins for the support in the lead up and during The Open at St Andrews.

**EAST**

Remember our sponsors Circle Golf provide 5 spaces at our Scottish Golf Championships, 2 from the Autumn meeting and 2 from Spring. Next year’s Scottish is at Ladybank in August.

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**Welcome New Members**

Jason Scott, Greenskeeper, Buchanan Castle Golf Club, Colin Macfarlane, Greenskeeper, Fermine Golf Club, Colin McAdam, Greenskeeper, Glasgow GC, Gaiiles, Steven Hoon, Greenskeeper, Greenerk eeper, The Dukes St Andrews, Steven Clarke, Greenskeeper, Glasgow GC, Gaiiles, Jaines Taylor, Head Greenskeeper, Wic Golf Club, Jordan Harrison, Greenskeeper, Clandeboy Golf Club.

The weather has been challenging throughout the South West of Scotland as all of you will be aware of, so fingers crossed for some sunshine for the remainder of the summer holidays.

Thank you in advance to Derek Wilson for hosting the upcoming board meeting at Bopiega on 13 August. The meeting minutes will be circulated in due course.

A social event was suggested at the last meeting, so if anyone has any ideas then please get in touch at the above email address.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Autumn Outing at Brodick GC and the course walk at Royal Troon. As always please get in touch with your news or photos via email Facebook or Twitter.
**Northern**

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

**Northern News**

**NORTH WEST**

We held our Summer Tournament at The Mere Golf Resort And Spa on Monday 6 July. We tried a new format out of 11 holes and a machinery demo with food afterwards. The Committee would like to thank the 28 people who played and sponsored Chesire Turf Machinery for making the day a huge success.

We would like to congratulate Steve Henley, Andy Merry and Tim Johnson on completing the 52 mile Great Manchester Cycle. Also we’d like to congratulate the North West Section in beating the North Wales Section in the annual cricket match.

Owynn Davies, Course Manager of The Mere Golf Resort And Spa, would like to thank John McLaughlin & James Dudley – Warrington GC, Ash Griffiths - Wrexham GC, Richie Stevens - Plaxton GC and Chris Tyrrelle – Royal Liverpool GC for their help during the open qualifier.

Congratulations to Tom Ince who celebrated working at Wigan Golf Club for 25 years in July. Also congratulations to Chris Harding from Prestwich GC on his graduation.

**NORTH EAST**

The section would like to congratulate Hexham’s David Thompson and his wife Heather on the birth of their son Connor. Also congratulations to Simon Oliver (above) on his graduation.

We would like to wish Steve Cruan the best of luck in his new cry care moves from Slaley Hall GC to course manager of Archerfield GC in Scotland, Stevie has been a great advert of the maintenance facilities.

**NORTH WALES**

The annual North West v North Wales cricket match took place on 8 July at Ashley Cricket Club and in a tight match the North West won the game by 1 run with 2 balls remaining. Well done North West and it was agreed by all that it was once again a roaring success.

Notes (Carry forward)

**Events Coming Up**

**NORTH WEST**

We have our Autumn seminar coming up at Myerscough College on 28 October, more information will follow regarding line up etc.

**NORTH EAST**

On 9 September there will be an educational day at Whitley Bay Golf Club with the line up expected to be Jonathan Gauritz, James Hutchinson, Eddie Arrowsmith, Paul Lowe and there will be a demonstration from Campey. The presentations and course walks will cover construction, grow in and ecology. Full details will be distributed via email, Facebook and Twitter.

The date for the autumn tournament is at Ponteland GC on September 22.

**NORTH WALES**

The autumn tournament takes place at Chester GC on 17 September, entry forms are downloadable from our section Facebook page North Wales BIGGA.

**NORTHERN**

9 September will see an educational event take place for apprentice greenkeepers at Selby Golf Club sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Arrival for 2pm for a bacon roll and coffee. Stuart Green from BIGGA will give a presentation of learning and CPD points. Another speaker also to be confirmed soon. Afterwards there will be a course walk followed by a tour of the maintenance facilities.

We hope this free event will prove popular. If you would like to put forward any of your apprentices please contact n.coultish@sky.com as places will be limited to 15.

Next golf event is Presidents day on 24 September at Ilkley GC from 10.30am for a bacon and roll and coffee followed by 18 holes of golf and a meal for £15, hope to see a great turnout to support this event.

**SHEFFIELD**

Join us for the next golf day at Tankersley Park GC on Thursday 17 September. If you are interested in a visit to the potash mine in Cleveland on 14 October then please contact Neil Peters to register your interest as the trip will only be organised when 8 names are received.

**Welcome New Members**


**Thanks to Sponsors**

**NORTH WEST**

Thanks to Cheshire Turf Machinery for sponsoring the summer tournament, and to Battpage Amenity and Nick Gray for organizing and sponsoring the cricket match. The North West section would like to thank all of the section sponsors for the continued support that they provide, thank you.

**NORTH WALES**

Thanks to Battpage and Nick Gray for sponsoring the cricket match.

**NORTHERN**

A massive thank you to Greentek, Sheriff Amenity and Tacit for their sponsorship of the Invitation Day.

**SHEFFIELD**

Thanks to Marisfield Sand for sponsoring the summer tournament.
Around The Green

Midland

News

MID ANGLIA
We would like to wish Dale Housden, Course Manager from Caddington GC, all the best for his new venture in Birmingham and thank him for his support in the section over the last decade.

EAST MIDLANDS
Well summer is here at last and the season seems to be well under way. The Open will have been and won and I stuck my hand in my pocket to see what we had to work with. I must say there needs to be handicap cut/check for Martin Hickling “technically speaking”.

Thanks to Sponsors

MID ANGLIA

Welcome New Members


Events Coming Up

EAST MIDLANDS
Due to unforeseen circumstances please note a date change of the Midland Region Golf Championship from Wednesday 5 August to Wednesday 16 September. If you have already sent in an entry form along with a cheque, or have paid by BACS could you please let Roger Butler know if you would like to added into the revised date.

If you can no longer make the new date then please let Roger know and he will return your cheque or BACS payment. There are still plenty of places available. The revised entry form is attached and is also available on the events section of the BIGGA website.

BIGGA National Championship, Fulford Golf Club, 12-13 October 2015 Entry Form

Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £95 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name ..................................................
Address ..................................................
Post Code .............................................
Mobile ..............................................
E-mail ..................................................
Signature ............................................
Membership No. ..................................
Handicap ............................................
BIGGA Section ....................................

Payment method (please tick)

- I enclose my cheque made payable to ‘BIGGA Ltd’ value £95
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £95

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

Please send your entry form, cheque, or payment to:

Rachael@bigga.co.uk

Deadline for entry is 4th September 2015

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.
**South East**

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


Pause for thought: I am sitting in my back garden waiting for some great grit to fledge - they are less than 10 yards away. The only sound I can hear is the chicks chirping and their parents calling. It is a welcome change from some golfer telling me how fast the greens have become since it rained! They don’t need any green staff, just rain. See you all at Swaffham on 3 September.

**SURREY**


Great to see Billy and Bob McMillan together celebrating 30 years of history at the McMillan Tankard which is held every year at Sunningdale. Big thank you to Bob from the Artisans, Jamie Wilson and all the Sunningdale team who provided courtesy of the course, great food and ensured we had a superb day. Gareth Roberts managed the barbecue serving up flame grilled delights to all.

**LONDON**

The London section had a great spring tournament on Wednesday 24th June which was the qualifier for the national tournament, held at the very nice Bush Hill Park. Course Manager Graham Cephalo had the course presented in excellent condition and this was reflected in the scores:

1 Robin Toovey 42, 2 Paul Homes 42, 3 Adam Clark 40.

NTP was Robin Toovey with a hole in one. L/D Graham Jones. Trade winner was Simon Banks with a average 36. NTP was Robin Toovey with a hole in one. L/D Graham Jones. Trade winner was Simon Banks with a average 36.

**Thanks to Sponsors**

**EAST ANGLIA**

The main sponsors at Dunston Hall were Bartram Hurlimans and the afternoon was a success with nearly 40 delegates. A great day was had by all.

**News**

**South West & Wales**

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

big thank you to all our patrons whose support allowed the day to be free of charge, and thank you to Roger Davey at brittich Ltd for contributing to the day’s proceedings.

The Open was a brilliant week, eventful with some typical British summer weather. A great time was had by all the team including the South West guys Ed Parke, Joe Curtis, Tom Wright, Darren Mosham, Chris Sealey and myself.

Finally congratulations to the South West & South Wales Regional Administrator Tracey Harvey and her fiancé Leighton Walker who are getting married at the end of August, best wishes from all in the South West.

**SOUTH WALES**

A ten man team headed across the bridge to Bristol on Tuesday 16th June to play for the Rigby Taylor challenge match. A great day, great course and company, dare I mention we came last. The GCSA South West came second and BBGGA South West triumphed first place, congratulations. We will hopefully regain the match when you come to us next year.

A reminder again to all members of sponsored places for BTME and Regional Conference if interested please contact P. Hardy or S. Lloyd.

**Events Coming Up**

**SURREY** 16 Sept Match v Reps

Hankley Common GC

3 November England v Scotland

SURREY McMillan Tankard

18 November Match v Secretaries

The Berkshire GC

16 Sept Match v Reps

Hankley Common GC

15 December South West Section Christmas Tournament

**LONDON**

The summer tournament will be at Higinate in September date still to be set and the Xmas tournament is on 8 December at Moor Park GC.

**Events Coming Up**

**EAST ANGLIA**

It was a lovely day at Dunston Hall. The course was in fine fettle thanks to Steve Crabb and his crew. Fifty or so tried to do the course justice (most failed miserably).

Great news from the Rigby Taylor Team Challenge with South West Section taking the honours, many thanks to the South West Section and South West secretaries for the stiff competition – particularly from Jim Croxton - and the team at The Players for their efforts.

Thanks to Matthew James and the team at Cumberwell Park GC for hosting the latest Turf Club, the afternoon was a success with nearly 40 delegates. A ten man team headed across the bridge to Bristol on Tuesday 16th June to play for the Rigby Taylor challenge match. A great day, great course and company, dare I mention we came last. The GCSA South West came second and BBGGA South West triumphed first place, congratulations. We will hopefully regain the match when you come to us next year.

A reminder again to all members of sponsored places for BTME and Regional Conference if interested please contact P. Hardy or S. Lloyd.

**Events Coming Up**

**SOUTH COAST**

A great day was had by all at our recent Summer Tournament held at Southwick Park Golf Club. The event was a “Yellow Ball” competition that proved to be fun for members of all golfing abilities. Congratulations go to Dave Smart, Russell Riley, Simon Justice and Bev Blair who won the day with 33 points. A big thank you to all at Southwick Park for giving us such a warm welcome and in particular James Pancy and his team for delivering us a course in such great condition.

The Open will have been and gone by the time this reaches you, but congratulations once again to Tom Smith from Wickham Park GC and Luke Elgie from Rushmoor GC for representing our section and being part of the support team this year.

To help us maintain a successful section, please remember to settle all accounts relating to fixtures and training events promptly. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members if you are unsure of how, where or when to pay.

**Thanks to Sponsors**

**SOUTH WEST**

A big thank you to our patrons for their continued support – Ecosolve, Headland Amenity, Countrywide Farmers, IrriTech Ltd, H Curtis & sons, TH White, Greenman and Farmura.

**Welcome New Members**


**Welcome New International Members**

Andrew Sprunt, Florissan Golf Club (USA), David Perdissat, Naas Golf Club (Republic of Ireland).
Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Stokes and James Pashley from Plumpton College explain how they are preparing to deliver the new Golf Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Standard from September.

Plumpton College, one of the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres, has a long history in delivering greenkeeper education and continues to ensure its programmes meet the requirements of the industry.

The Government’s Trailblazer Apprenticeship reform policy has firmly put employers in the driving seat for apprenticeship design and delivery. Plumpton College has been involved in several meetings with the GTC Trailblazer working groups and is pleased to be one of the first colleges in England to offer the new GTC Golf Greenkeeper apprenticeship programme from September.

This new Trailblazer Apprenticeship follows employer-led standards and is specifically developed for the golf industry. The new apprenticeship scheme is tailored to developing new apprentices who have the drive, enthusiasm and business acumen to make strong contributions to business performance.

The apprenticeship will include an improved Level 2 qualification with all the skills, knowledge and behaviours required to become a golf greenkeeper. James Pashley, Head of Horticulture, said: “This is an exciting opportunity for anyone wishing to pursue a high flying, prestigious career in the golf industry.”

David Golding, GTC Education Director, added: “I am extremely pleased that Plumpton College are working with the GTC to develop and deliver the new Apprenticeship in Golf Greenkeeping.

“This new apprenticeship was developed by industry and will be ideal for those employers looking to train up the supervisors and managers of the future. This new Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship is ideally suited to those apprentices looking to develop the skills, knowledge and the employment attributes to become Assistant Greenkeepers and who would be looking to make a significant contribution to the business’s performance.”

So, who are these apprenticeships aimed at?

The Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship is designed to take people with dedication and a good potential to learn from a basic start point to become a budding Assistant Greenkeeper within two years. The qualification will provide candidates with strong progression opportunities within the work place and also onto further levels of apprenticeship. A high standard of delivery and assessment both at college and within the workplace will set these candidates in good stead for a bright future career.

Plumpton College is now looking for enthusiastic golf greenkeeper employers to work in partnership to begin delivery of the first of these new apprenticeships. The role of the golf club’s Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper is extremely important as they will be responsible to give the apprentice the day to day training and support required to ensure progress is made. Plumpton College will be also looking to support employers manage the new funding initiatives announced by the Government.

Through the GTC Trailblazer group, there are two more apprenticeships under development; these are the Advanced Golf Greenkeeper Level 3 and Golf Course Manager which is likely to be accredited at Level 5.

If you are interested in putting forward a strong candidate for this opportunity, please contact James Pashley Head of Horticulture at Plumpton College, or Corrine Hills Work-based learning manager.

James Pashley: Tel 01273 892044 Email: pashleyj@plumpton.ac.uk

Corrine Hills: Tel 01273 892049 Email: billsc@plumpton.ac.uk

www.plumpton.ac.uk
The upturn started in the middle of 2014 and enquiries have continued to flood in ever since!”
Earley, Managing Director, Waste2Water.

As I am sure you are aware from extensive publicity the EU Water Framework Directive implementation period from 2009-2015 expires soon!

As we are delighted so many clubs are taking their environmental responsibilities seriously with record numbers installing our Recycling Wash-Off System or a copy of the Pollution Prevention Guidelines please call 01782 373 878 or e-mail: info@waste2water.com

Civil & Criminal Powers: 
- Variable Monetary Penalty (VMP) of up to £250,000!
- Up to 3 months imprisonment for the most serious pollution incidents.

To advertise contact James on 01347 833 832 or email james@bigga.co.uk

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International recruitment
pages are here to help you match the right person
to the right job.
With a readership of
a high calibre of candidates to fill
your positions. The magazine is read by
greenkeepers across the UK
and the world as a huge variety
of facilities, by turf managers of
various experience and different
roles. It is also delivered to the
various experience and different
positions.

High calibre of candidates to fill
you will be guaranteed to find a
targeted direct to your industry,
reaching over 15,000 people,
its unrivalled reach across
the magazine is read by

About you
We are looking for a high calibre individual to join our Turf and Amenity division in this exciting new
Landscape and Industrial Business Development role covering the UK and Ireland.

With an extensive background in the industry, landscape and turf management, you will demonstrate a good
understanding of turf and industrial products and practices including vegetation management,

You will be highly motivated and enthusiastic about new business and deliver first-class
customers. You will also be working as part of a team to develop new products and initiatives.

As part of the role you will be responsible for working closely with industry bodies and associations
in order to represent the company and ensure opportunities and challenges are handled effectively and

You will be IT literate and have excellent interpersonal skills, engaging confidently and professionally
in order to represent the Company and ensure opportunities and challenges are handled effectively
and effectively.

In return for your commitment, you will enjoy a competitive salary plus bonus, contributory pension scheme,
26 days annual leave, and other benefits. You will also have the opportunity to develop your career
and understand the role.

About us
You will know our brands, but you might not realise the strength of the business behind them.
Everris®, formerly known as Scotts, is a leading global horticultural company, part of the
ICL Group, which employs more than 11,500 people globally. We are world leaders in the

We pride ourselves on offering an exceptionally high standard of pre-sale and after sales
back up for all of the products we distribute.

The Role:
The Turf division is looking to recruit an Area Sales Manager, ideally South East based to support the sales

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. Closing date for applications is 14th August 2015

Looking for:
• Competitive salary plus bonus
• Company car
• 26 days annual leave
• Contributory pension scheme
• Subsidised private medical and dental insurance
• Excellent development and career opportunities that come with being part of a global business.

To apply, please send a résumé and application letter to: Matthew Hart, Senior HR Manager, Everris Ltd, Boulby
Senior HR Manager, Everris Ltd, Boulby, TS13 4HP or email the same to
matthew.hart@icl-group.com

If you’re the person we’re looking for:
We offer a substantial benefits package including:

We offer a competitive package of salary and bonus, plus
company car, pension and holiday entitlements.
Applications should be made by emailing a CV and covering
letter to Paul Sheather, Course Manager, Tyrells Wood Golf Club,
The Drive, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8QP
E: course.manager@tyrellswoodgolfclub.com

Assistant Greenkeeper
Tyrells Wood Golf Club is looking to recruit an experienced and
qualified Assistant Greenkeeper to join our skilled team on a full time
basis. We are seeking an enthusiastic and motivated individual who
will be involved in the daily presentation of the course, project work

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

We offer a competitive package of salary and bonus, plus
company car, pension and holiday entitlements.
Applications should be made by emailing a CV and covering
letter to careers@rigbytaylor.com

This position carries a full remuneration and benefits package including a company vehicle.

Landscape and Industrial Business Development Manager
Everris UK & Ireland Turf & Amenity
About you
We are looking for a high calibre individual to join our Turf and Amenity division in this exciting new
Landscape and Industrial Business Development role covering the UK and Ireland.

With an extensive technical and sales skills and a proven background within the landscape,
industrial and amenity sectors, the ideal candidate will demonstrate a robust knowledge
and understanding of landscape and industrial products and practices including vegetation
management, hard surface maintenance, landscaping and turf management.

You will be highly motivated and enthusiastic about new business and deliver first-class
customers. You will also be working as part of a team to develop new products and initiatives.

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Recruitment

Vocational Work Based Tutor (Horticultural)

LINE MANAGED BY: Operational Manager
REPORTING TO: Director of Operations

MAIN PURPOSE OF JOB: To assist, assess and carry out other pastoral activities which contribute towards high quality, effective and relevant learning experiences that are appropriate to the needs of Individual students.

MAIN ACTIVITIES TO INCLUDE:
- Liability and management of a team of Horticultural tutors
- Personal responsibility for the maintenance and development of the Learning Environment
- Arrangement of pastoral activities which contribute towards high quality, effective and relevant learning
- Contribute to the ongoing development of Slic Open Qualifying course.

SALARY: £21,000 - £24,000 depending on experience and caseload (Home experiences that are appropriate to the needs of Individual students.

APPLICATIONS should be made with a covering letter and CV to HR Department, Copthorne Hotel Effingham Gatwick, West Park Road, Cophorne, West Sussex, RH10 7EU. Alternatively, please send via email to recruitment.gatwick@millenniumhotels.co.uk with ‘Greenkeeper Vacancy’ as the subject line.

HEAD GREENKEEPER
FORMBY LADIES GOLF CLUB

Founded in 1995 - oldest independent Ladies Club in the world.

Highly motivated Head Greenkeeper required to maintain the excellent standards in place.

Requirements:
- Ability to lead, manage and develop the existing team
- Computer literate, manage costs within agreed budgets
- A sound knowledge of green keeping machinery and maintenance
- A detailed knowledge of Health & Safety regulations

Essential Qualifications:
- 5 years Greenkeeping supervisory experience
- NVQ 3, PA1, PA2 & PA6 Spraying Certificates
- Excellent salary package dependent on qualifications and experience.
- Please email your CV with covering letter to secretary@formbyladiesgolfclub.co.uk

Further details are available at www.bigga.org.uk

ROYAL WORLINGTON & NEWMARKET GOLF CLUB
ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER, Reporting to the Head Greenkeeper

Full Time, or Part Time Contract available. Salary dependent on experience.

Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club is an exclusive Private Members Club based in Saffron Walden. The “Sacred Nine”, as it is often known, has 9 holes steeped in history and tradition. The Club was formed in 1893 and is also home to the Cambridge University Golf Club.

The Club requires a full or part time experienced Assistant Greenkeeper to join our Greenkeeping team to assist the Head Greenkeeper in maintaining the highest standards of presentation of the golf course. They will be responsible for the care and maintenance of the golf course and associated facilities.

To apply - Applicants are required to submit a CV along with a covering letter outlining their suitability for the role to Scott Ballentine, Secretary, Email secretary@royalworlington.co.uk. Closing date 28th August 2015.

For more than 100 years the Kyoeisha Co. of Japan has been making first-class, high quality, user friendly machinery for its customers. Since late 2007 customers in the U.K. have been sharing in that experience, finding out just how low the whole life service costs of Baroness mowers can be!

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Our favourite tweets this month...

@gavinwhiteNI New construction fully under way for the Open Championship @royalportrush @greenkeeping @BIGGALtd

@TheHomeofGolf What a week and what an Open Championship! Huge credit to those unsung heroes - our Greenkeeping team. @TheOpen

@gord_mckie at TheHomeofGolf @TheOpen Top job by top men & girls WorldTour #teamwork

@RobSandilands Last unexpected day for the @BIGGALtd @TheOpen support team at @TheHomeofGolf A great team effort and a credit to the industry.

@paul_armour Last morning @TheOpen @BIGGALtd

@ZBFurniture Last unexpected day for the @BIGGALtd @TheOpen support team at @TheHomeofGolf. A great team effort and a credit to the industry.

@ConnahSimon Hope all the @BIGGALtd Volunteers & Staff have a fantastic week here in St Andrews. Welcome to the @TheHomeofGolf

@Tracey_Maddison Great to watch the #greenkeeping team swing into action early this morning @TheHomeofGolf.

@ActonJaime Congratulations to @lukeelgie of @RushmoreGolf for being part of the @BIGGALtd Open support team 2015. Have a safe journey and amazing time!
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