Picture perfect

Photos and news from the first Delegation to TPC Sawgrass - and how you can join in next year
Class-Leading Payload Capacity, Power & Comfort

The all-new Jacobsen Truckster XD heavy-duty utility vehicle is the new leader in every category that matters most to you: a massive, 1,610 kg. standard payload capacity; the toughest bed in the industry; and a commanding 71.5 Nm of torque from the diesel engine. More than just pure muscle, the Truckster XD also features 25% more cabin space than the competition. Learn more about how the Jacobsen Truckster XD makes easy work of your toughest jobs at Jacobsen.com.
TPC Sawgrass
How you can be there next year

After this, Stage 3 features five members who will join the greenkeeping team at the legendary venue. The six UK and Ireland winners joined the greenkeeping maintenance team for the duration of the Players Championship on the PGA Tour, courtesy of BIGGA and GCSAI partner John Deere. They even had the opportunity to attempt to hit the island green on the course’s legendary 17th hole, which was achieved by Rickie Fowler sealing a thrilling play-off victory - and five candidates which will take place in November/December.

Once your availability has been confirmed, details will be emailed to you regarding the next stage. There are three stages to the Volunteer Programme. Stage 1 is to register your interest by completing the short survey in the members area of the BIGGA website, by clicking on the Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme tab on the left. Once your availability has been taken into consideration, Stage 2 involves the members to be involved in the ‘5th Regions can secure the chance to be involved in the ‘5th

Once again one Full Member of over 2200 people that make the event possible each year, assigned to one of four divisions: player services, volunteer services and facilities.

The Players Championship volunteer force is made up of the committed team preparing the course for the professionals. You can be involved in the preparation of TPC Sawgrass for the Players Championship, thanks to John Deere - and you can follow in their footsteps as the application process has opened for the 2016 event.

BIGGA members have returned from assisting in the PGA Tour with travel, maintenance team for the duration of the Players Championship on the PGA Tour, courtesy of BIGGA and GCSAI partner John Deere. They even had the opportunity to attempt to hit the island green on the course’s legendary 17th hole, which was achieved by Rickie Fowler sealing a thrilling play-off victory - and five candidates which will take place in November/December. After this, Stage 3 features five members who will join the greenkeeping team at the legendary venue. The six UK and Ireland winners joined the greenkeeping maintenance team for the duration of the Players Championship on the PGA Tour, courtesy of BIGGA and GCSAI partner John Deere. They even had the opportunity to attempt to hit the island green on the course’s legendary 17th hole, which was achieved by Rickie Fowler sealing a thrilling play-off victory - and five candidates which will take place in November/December.

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Taking time to reflect

Last month saw me turn 42 - note I didn’t say celebrate… it felt like a good time to reflect on 26 years in the greenkeeping industry, and how it’s changed. One of my team - Pat Kidd - has been greenkeeping for almost 47 years and we often chat about how the changes have impacted on the playing of golf and greenkeeping as an industry.

Without doubt, the mechanisation of many tasks has made the job physically easier, but increased expectation and pressure has made the job tougher in many ways. BIGGA has played a role in this greater level of expectation. BIGGA’s founding members and members of earlier organisations had the foresight and passion to push both the standards of golf courses and the standards of greenkeeper education.

It’s only at times of reflection that we realise how far we’ve come and this allows us to focus on what we can achieve.

This leads on nicely to the strategic planning survey that was circulated during May. I would like to thank all of our members for taking the time to complete the survey. As we analyse the data and gain further insight into how our members currently view the Association and its activities we will formulate a second survey. This will map out a range of potential strategic directions BIGGA can take in the next few years. I would urge you all to take ten minutes and play this important part in shaping the future of the Association.

The latest member participation initiative - the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme - was an amazing success. The selected guys had an incredible experience and represented BIGGA with the level of professionalism we have come to expect.

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GI WINS AWARDS FOR BEST DESIGN

Greenkeeper International has scooped three awards for Best Design at a prestigious ceremony held in Milwaukee, USA to celebrate the best of the worldwide turf industry’s writing and design achievements, hosted by TOCA.

The awards were announced when TOCA recently held its annual meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended by BIGGA’s Communications Executive Steve Castle who picked up the prizes for the Association’s monthly magazine.

BIGGA Design & Brand Executive Tom Campbell ( inset at BIGGA House) won first prize for Best Design Publication (full magazine article layout) for the ‘25 Years of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year’ spread and cover in October’s GI.

Tom was also awarded a merit for Best Design for ‘How to avoid the pitfalls of social media’ in April 2014, as shown below.

The Turf & Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) first became involved with BIGGA at BTME 2015 when they presented three seminars in the Partner Events section at Continue to Learn focusing on social media and creative writing.

Steve said: “I was hugely impressed by TOCA’s programme at BTME and was blown away when I was invited to America for TOCA’s Annual Meeting.

“If you would like to know more about our grassland awards in Europe or hear about the grassland workshops which are coming up in the autumn please get in touch with me.

“Happy days!”

TOCA President Scott Hollister said: “The interest that has been shown in TOCA by green industry media professionals in the UK has been extremely gratifying for those of us active in TOCA in the States.”

The invitation also gave Steve the opportunity to visit International BIGGA members while in the States - keep an eye out for an article with a distinct Stateside flavour in a forthcoming magazine.

Beesy does it

BIGGA MG ACHIEVES CERTIFIED CLUB MANAGER STATUS

One of BIGGA’s Master Greenkeepers is celebrating after successfully achieving Certified Club Manager Status.

Chris Lomas, formerly Golf Course Manager at The Berkshire Golf Club, is currently Secretary at Worpleston Golf Club and becomes just the second person to achieve both the MG and CCM qualifications after Andy Campbell.

Chris began his greenkeeping career at Pleasington Golf Club near Blackburn, then after a spell at Carden Park he joined Swinley Forest Golf Club in 1995 as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. He then moved on to head the greenkeeping team at The Berkshire and after 11 years there joined Worpleston Golf Club as Secretary in 2010.

Chris said: “I am of course very proud to have achieved this qualification, and I would be delighted if more greenkeepers were to follow this path. As secretary you effectively become the CEO of a small business and I’ve learnt so much by doing this. I’m very career focused and it’s opened a lot of doors for me. I thoroughly enjoyed greenkeeping and I really do miss working on the course, but I don’t regret changing focus.

“The CCM qualification, which has been running in America for 50 years, is now recognised throughout the world, and many organisations insist on this as a minimum requirement. I would recommend anyone who is serious about their Club Management career to consider CCM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Hunt and The Berkshire Golf Club, along with my Committee here at Worpleston Golf Club for supporting me through the process.”

Chris now joins an elite band of Club Industry professionals in Europe who have achieved CCM status raising the number holding the qualification to 34. BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said:

“Many congratulations to Chris. This is further proof that the wide range of skills acquired and demonstrated by turf managers can be transferred into other areas of management. We’re extremely proud that one of our Master Greenkeepers has achieved the CCM – well done!”

SOUTH WEST TURF CLUB

Another of the increasingly popular ‘Turf Club’ events is taking place on Thursday 9 July at Cinderberryl Park Golf Club in Wiltshire.

This is a fantastic opportunity to see the work being carried out at the course which will be up for a Master Greenkeeper award in June. They are currently constructing a new par three course and attendees will have the chance to hear more from Course Manager Matt Mason, and see for themselves.

The event runs from 1.30pm – 3.30pm with CPD Credits are available to everyone attending. For more information contact Lucy Bilsborrow at lucy@southwestturfclub.co.uk.
CAMPEY TURF CARE PRO AM

Hart Common Golf Club was once again the host for the Campey Turf Care PGA Pro Am. The weather was glorious following a frosty start that delayed preparations for Richard Roberts and his team, however, by 10am the course and facilities were top notch. Greenovia had been prepared with Toro Greensmaster 3250s cut at 4.5mm, Approaches 12mm for Richard Roberts and his pro Am. The weather was perfect for the day and Hart Common Golf Club was once again the host venue for the Campey Turf Care PGA Pro Am. The day was rounded off with a superb BBQ, thank you Julie, Janet and Donna along with a vote of thanks to all organisations involved in organising a fantastic day.

Sandra Raper

MARATHON MAN

Earlier this year, I had the very great honour of being awarded Life Membership of BIGGA. Any award that recognises service to your industry is always gratefully received but coming as this one does from my peers, it is very special indeed. My congratulations go to the other four candidates who were also made Life Members this year.

When I got the phone call from our Chairman offering me the award, I was somewhat taken aback and saying ‘thank you’ didn’t seem enough. I would like to offer my thoughts on what the Association means to me and how I see the greenkeeping profession developing over the next few years.

As part of an apprenticeship in horticulture with the local authority, I was introduced to golf when transfereed to Concord Park Golf Club in Sheffield in the early 1970s. Never having been on a golf course before there was a lot to learn, but unfortunately, there was no one with any capability to teach me. Many mistakes and a lot of hard work later, I began grasp what greenkeeping was about and the challenges of working with limited resources.

However, after three years of frustration and a lack of job satisfaction, I applied for a First Assistant’s job at Hillasborough Golf Club. It was there I met Head Greenkeeper Henry Gillipole, who turned a shy but keen lad into a confident and experienced greenkeeper. Henry was a brilliant greenkeeper who taught me much about the traditional methods of greenkeeping, but he was also a modern thinker who was one of the first in the area to purchase a Toro triple mower, a Cushman truck and a Verti-Drain.

He taught me the value of constantly evaluating working practices and avoiding entrenched attitudes to how things should be done, and I have a huge amount of respect for him. Henry also introduced me to the British Golf Greenkeepers Association (as it was then) and ensured that all his staff were members and supported Section Events, a trend that I have continued with my own course.

After six good years at Hillasborough, I made the leap to Head Greenkeeper faster to become Course Manager as the role evolved at Hallamshire Golf Club in 1983 where I have been ever since. I hope that I have managed to adopt the same work ethic Henry had that valued hard work, professionalism, forward thinking and teamwork.

Many clubs, like Hallamshire, have provided a service for thousands of members and visitors for over a hundred years as well as giving employment to greenkeepers and other staff. Greenkeeping is almost unique in having a senior management team that has little or no experience in looking after golf courses and that is where conflict and misunderstanding can occur. I have just used the word teamwork and by that, I don’t mean just the greenkeeping team but also the Board of Directors, Secretaries, Professional, consultants and anyone else associated with the management of the course. I have found that the most successful golf clubs adopt a quiet, measured approach to management where decisions are determined not by personalities but by policies where mutual respect and a common goal to improve standards for everyone is encouraged.

Having been involved with BIGGA for many years and served as Secretary, Chairman and President of the Sheffield Section, the Association and particularly the welfare and empowerment of greenkeepers is very dear to me. Greenkeepers need a strong and active representative to speak up for education, development, working conditions and the respect that the role deserves. BIGGA is a greenkeepers association and we must not rely on its management team to fight our battles for us alone. We should be all actively involved in the running of each section, not particularly as officials but by simply supporting events, golf matches and conferences. A few people around the country do a lot of work for the many and all they need is the simple act of attendance at event for them to be successful and valid.

I call on all Course Managers to encourage all their greenkeeping team to attend events organised by their section and would go so far as to insist that is expected as part of their job. A strong case should be made to golf clubs that these educational and development opportunities are good for the club as well as the staff.

In my forty odd years as a greenkeeper, I have met and worked with some excellent people, whether they be colleagues, members or trade and I have seen the passion, skill and hard work that greenkeepers put into their jobs for relatively modest rewards compared to other industries. A strong Association which actively engages golf clubs is vital if we are to improve the welfare and standing of greenkeepers but BIGGA cannot do it alone.

We must raise our own game by being aware of the need to act in a professional manner either on the course or in the committee room and by finding positive ways to work with our employers to improve our working conditions and job security. It may be a little way off yet but I like to think that eventually all greenkeepers will receive the respect and rewards that they totally deserve.

Gordon Brammah, Course Manager at Hallamshire Golf Club, sent us his thoughts on greenkeeping and BIGGA...
BIGGA SCOTLAND TEAM TRIUMPH

It was a good day at the office for Jim Paton, Regional Chairman and Course Manager of the host club for the annual match with GCMA Scotland. Jim led the team to its first victory in three years by a score of 3.5 to 2.5.

West Kilbride Golf Club was in excellent condition and was bathed in sunshine with the greenkeeping team working hard and dedicating their time to providing an excellent playing surface for the match.

The competition was sponsored by the St Andrews Management Ltd, a management training company based in Cupar, Fife. Karen Davison from the sponsors attended the day, and later expressed her gratitude for the invitation to be present.

She also expressed her hope that the two Associations and St Andrews would develop a strong working partnership in the future.

Jim thanked his team for the excellent effort in winning a very close match. The team comprised Shaun Anderson and Richard Jenkinson (Central Section); Chris Lamb and George Mitchell (North Section); Iain Barrie, Richard Hills, Ian Smith and Derek Wilson (South West Section); and Garry Strauss, John Dale and Ronnie Myles (West Section).

John Young

BIGGA GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY 2015

This summer BIGGA members and their colleagues have the chance to play on some of the UK’s finest golf courses and become the second team to win the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy, sponsored by Events.

One of the main aims of the tournament is to encourage excellent relationships between the senior decision makers at golf clubs across the Regions, and last year’s event was an unqualified success with the team from Chipping Sodbury GC emerging victorious.

Here are the dates and venues for this year’s competition with the top two teams from each qualifying event progressing to the final. This will be played on October 4th at the Red Course at Friford Heath Golf Club. To enter, please contact your RA.

3 July – St Melion International Resort – Devon & Cornwall Section.
Contact Tracey Harvey tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk or 07841 948119
8 July – Cardoc GC – South Wales Section.
Contact Tracey Harvey tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk or 07841 948410
22 July – Mincehampton GC – South West Section.
Contact Tracey Harvey tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk or 07841 948410
30 July – Dunblane GC – Scotland Region.
Contact John Young johnyoung@bigga.co.uk or 07776 242120
19 August – Dunham Forest GC – Northern Region.
Contact Sandra Raper sandral@bigga.co.uk or 07866 366696
7 September – John O’Gaunt GC – Midland Region.
Contact Roger Butler roger@bigga.co.uk or 07525 593559
30 September – Cladbrooy GC – Northern Ireland Region.
Contact John Young johnyoung@bigga.co.uk or 07776 242120
1 October – Broxheunster Manor GC – South Coast Section.
Contact Tracey Harvey tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk or 07841 948110
19 October – FINAL, Friford Heath GC

EVENR15

THE PETER LARTER TROPHY

Players at the Midland Regional Golf Championship in August will be competing for the inaugural Peter Larter Trophy after BIGGA’s Midland Region Committee voted to name the event after the former BIGGA Regional Administrator.

The ex-England rugby union international spent 16 years working as a RA for the Northern and Midland Regions and is hugely respected and admired for his work with the Association. He retired from his post in 2012.

Now, the Championship which takes place this year at Northants County Golf Club on Wednesday 5 August will boast the Peter Larter Trophy as its main prize.

Peter said: “I was blown away when I was told about this. It was so unexpected. I never thought I would have my name on a golf trophy!”

Peter added that he is currently enjoying his retirement and the successful hip operation he underwent shortly after leaving BIGGA. He is also being kept busy visiting his eight grandchildren!

What’s sure to be memorable day starts from 12 noon and entries are £27.50 per person, open to all Full and Affiliate members.

This summer BIGGA will be providing an excellent playing experience for the members and their guests. The event is open to all Full and Affiliate members. The format is 18 holes Stableford with the best gross score winning the Trophy, plus a prize for the best nett score. The entry fee includes prizes and a meal.

The eminent ex-England rugby union international is one of the main aims of the tournament is to encourage excellent relationships between the senior decision makers at golf clubs across the Regions, and last year’s event was an unqualified success with the team from Chipping Sodbury GC emerging victorious.

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BIGGA PHOTOGRAPHERS COMP 2015

Win an iPad

Get in the picture

Members once again have the opportunity to win an iPad in the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition 2015.

Why not show off your course and send us a stunning photo?

Digital camera images are preferred, but mobile phone entries are also encouraged. Digital images will be displayed at 16:9 ratio. If you are using a mobile phone, please ensure it is taken on the highest resolution setting possible.

Members will again have the opportunity to pick the winner. A panel at BIGGA House will reduce the entries to a final shortlist of 24, then members will pick the eventual winner. The 12 pictures with the most votes will be included in the desktop calendar, and the entry with the most votes in total will scoop an iPad plus a framed version of your photo which will be presented to them at BTME 2016.

To enter, please send your photos to comp@bigga.co.uk with BIGGA Photo Comp 2015 in the subject field.

Include your name, the club you work at and your membership number plus a caption for the photo with details of where and when you took it.

The closing date for entries is Friday 17 July 2015.

Image should be a size suitable for a print size of 300dpi. Only images from a digital camera or higher will be considered. Photos of the course members and family are not suitable for the competition.

Please include your name, email address plus a membership number plus a caption for the photo with details of where and when you took it.

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**INDUSTRY UPDATE**

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

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**AITKENs PRODUCT COMBATS DRY PATCH**

Aitkens has developed a combination of premium penetrants and wetting agents which offer the most effective method of controlling and defeating dry patch. Award Osprey Active Liquid from Aitkens is a unique concentrated soil surfactant providing increased stress resistance to ensure healthy uniform turf under stressful conditions with increased root stimulation.

It works preventatively through a blend of premium concentrated surfactants designed to be applied monthly to form strong lasting bonds with the hydrophobic soil particles. Early application helps to boost plant metabolism and ensure the plant grows more effectively at low temperatures.

By including a premium penetrant Award Osprey Active offers unparalleled curative control of dry patch; the penetrant allows the wetting agent to move deep through the most repellent soils allowing the re-wetting agents to follow behind ensuring the area remains receptive to water in the future.

A full application of amino acids helps prevent stress associated with heat and drought, which in turn helps improve the rate of photosynthesis, seed germination, root vigour and development.

For more please visit www.aitkens.co.uk

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**MERIT TURF UPDATE**

Bayer CropScience has received formal notification from the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) that its granular insecticide Merit Turf (MAPP No 12415) is to be withdrawn from the market.

Formal notification of the revocation has been published on the CRD website. During the re-approval process for the existing Merit Turf authorisation the criteria for approval was changed resulting in the revocation of the existing approval.

As is usual in these circumstances, both the manufacturer and the distributor will have a six-month period in which to sell out stocks of Merit Turf. Following this, end users will have a further 12 months in which to use up these stocks.

On this basis, end users will be able to use the product until the end of the 2016 season, but the supply chain must have delivered all stocks of Merit Turf to end users by 31 October 2015. This will ensure that end users currently in a planned control programme will be able to purchase sufficient stock to continue their control programmes in 2016.

Technical Support Manager at Bayer, Dr Colin Mumford, said: “Although it is true that Merit Turf has had its authorisation revoked, it is not as bad as it sounds. The revocation is due to the criteria for re-registration changing after we had submitted our documentation.

“We now have to provide some additional data and then re-submit the application, which CRD will then consider over the coming months.

“As a result of the revocation, Bayer has until the end of October this year to sell Merit Turf, and end users have until the end of October 2016 to use it. This means you would be able to purchase sufficient stock this year for a 2016 application. Assuming our new re-registration is successful, Merit Turf would then be available for 2017.

“To keep this valuable insecticide, we need your support. We would like turf managers to contact us and share their positive reports, as a result of using Merit Turf.

To support this, please get in touch with Colin at colin.mumford@bayer.com or on 01223 226638.

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**Double delivery!**

The Overseeder 1430, 1830 and 2230 each deliver seed to the soil via two rows of coulters burying it safely up to 30mm (1¼”) deep in the ground and 30mm (1¼”) apart.

Taking uneven ground firmly in their stride, the machines use individually mounted coulters that allow the Overseeder to continue working in undulating conditions. Find out more about the Overseeder range today.
One of the many exciting initiatives launched at HTME 2015 was BIGGA’s Young Greenkeeper Committee (YGC), which held its first ever meeting during the week.

The Committee, which is a first for the Association, is comprised of 13 members from across BIGGA’s Regions and Sections – ranging all the way from the East of Scotland to North Cornwall.

The criteria for being a part of it is to be aged under 32 having been in the industry for a maximum of eight years.

The YGC’s overriding aim is to engage the younger members of the Association and provide the Board of Management with feedback about the needs of its current and future younger members.

YGC Committee member Miles Todd, Course Manager at Llandudno GC (Maesdu), travelled to BIGGA House recently to represent the YGC at the spring National Board of Management meeting.

Miles said: “It was a real eye-opener seeing just how much is involved in the running of the Association, I’d never seen that side of it before – the finances, the amount of work behind the scenes and the input of the Board members was fascinating to see.

“It was great to be involved with all the discussions, and to me that’s at the heart of what the YGC is all about, encouraging younger greenkeepers to take an interest in the Association and its many opportunities. It’s good to see that BIGGA has an eye on the future and I’m sure the YGC will play its part in ensuring that the membership offering is relevant to the next generation.

“We want to help encourage and aid young members to progress their careers, provide input for BIGGA to keep improving, provide communication links to BIGGA and turn ideas into action.

“YGC will provide committee members with experience to further their careers within the industry. The interaction between young members, YGC members and BIGGA will help provide a better organisation for all.”

The YGC members have mainly been communicating via Facebook and email and are in the process of determining the structure and regularity of their meetings.

Each Region is represented on the YGC, and with limitations on experience being a key criteria the personnel involved will change regularly over time.

Paul Armour, Course Supervisor on the Old Course at St Andrews and YGC member, added: “I see one of the YGC’s main roles as to help and encourage younger members to understand the opportunities and support BIGGA offers including free education, scholarships and volunteering.

“It’s all about ensuring members get the very best value out of their membership.”

For more about the work and to get involved in the YGC contact BIGGA’s Northern Regional Administrator on sandra@bigga.co.uk or 07866 366966.

BIGGA Young Greenkeeper Committee
Paul Armour – St Andrews – Scottish Central Section
Robert Bennetto – Immingham GC – East of England Section
Ashley Bear – Luttrells Heath GC – East Midlands Section
Andy Clark – Broadstone GC – South Coast Section
Mike Eds – The Priory at Poolehay – Devon & Cornwall Section
Jack Hetherington – Ponteland GC – North East Section
Shane Hinson – Dunstburgh Castle GC – North East Section
Andrew Naismith – Wentling GC – Sussex Section
James Parker – Ranfurly Castle GC – South West of Scotland Section
Scott Roberts – The Wisley GC – Surrey Section
Dan Simpson – Rockcliffe Hall GC – Cleveland Section
Liam Sprigg – Brentwood GC – Essex Section
Mike Todd – Llandudno GC (Maesdu) – North Wales Section

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

Please select the relevant category:
Full 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: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Mobile: ____________________________
Post Code: ____________________________

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

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

Deadline for entry is 4th September 2015
Completed entry forms should be sent to:
BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Aire, York YO61 1UF
The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member.

The 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.

BIGGA’s best
The BIGGA National Championship 2015, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, is at Fulford Golf Club, York, on 12-13 October 2015. You can win £500 worth of vouchers - just fill in the form below to book your spot...
Don’t forget that BIGGA has announced a new partnership with GTS Learning meaning members now have the opportunity to learn and enhance their Microsoft Office 2010/2013 IT skills.

BIGGA have negotiated a 10% discount on the price of the online courses, and any member is eligible to claim back up to 80% of the fees through the Refund of Fees scheme.

To access the online suite of courses, which include all the Microsoft Office 2010/2013 products of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook, log into the Members’ Area of the BIGGA website, go to Member Resources and the link to the courses are located under the Microsoft Online Learning tab.

Once purchased, members have 12 months access to the training course and there is no limit to how many times you can complete each module.

As with any online training solution, users are able to access the training at a time and place that suits them making it completely flexible.

Each course takes approximately 8 hours and a certificate is available for each completed module. 8 CPD credits are available for the completion of each course.

To claim your credits, please contact cpd@bigga.co.uk with a copy of your certificate and a CPD credit code will be issued to you.

Each course is £27 + VAT or you can purchase the full Office package for £85 + VAT.

MICROSOFT ONLINE

SCHOLARSHIPS

Baroness

Congratulations to Mark Downing and Daniel Green who have both been awarded Baroness Level 3 Scholarships.

Mark, from Launceston Golf Club, will be studying a Diploma in Work Based Horticulture at Duchy College. Daniel, from Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands Golf Club, will be studying the same Diploma.

Two more Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarships have been awarded this month.

Firstly, Steven Hardy from The Warwickshire Golf Club has been enrolled on a Foundation Degree in Sports turf at Myerscough College.

Next, Ben Croft from Mid Herts Golf Club has been awarded a Scholarship to study NVQ Level 4 Sports turf at Oaklands College.

Good luck to all four students, and to all BIGGA members currently studying for qualifications.

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!

The Baroness LM2400 lightweight fairway mower

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

To find out how you too can benefit from the remarkable cost savings experienced by owning a Baroness mower, call or e-mail for your demonstration today!

e-mail: sales@baronessuk.com
tel: 01256 461591
BIGGA members have returned from assisting in the preparation of TPC Sawgrass for the Players Championship, thanks to John Deere - and you can follow in their footsteps as the application process has opened for the 2016 event.

Once again one Full Member from each of BIGGA's five Regions can secure the chance to be involved in the '5th Major' thanks to the generous support of our Partner John Deere.

Five members will join the maintenance team for the duration of the Players Championship on the PGA Tour with travel, accommodation, subsistence and uniform all included.

TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme

There are three stages to the application process. Stage 1 is to register your interest by completing the short survey in the members area of the BIGGA website, by clicking on the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme tab on the left.

Once your availability has been confirmed, details will be emailed to you regarding the next stage. This involves recording a short video - full details will be available on completion of Stage 1.

After this, Stage 3 features Regional interviews with candidates which will take place in November/December.

The Players Championship volunteer force is made up of over 2200 people that make the event possible each year, assigned to one of four divisions: player services, spectator services, volunteer services and facilities. The six UK and Ireland winners joined the greenkeeping team at the legendary US venue for the entire duration of the Players Championship on the PGA Tour, courtesy of BIGGA and GCSAI partner John Deere. They even had the opportunity to attempt to hit the island green on the course's legendary 17th hole, which was achieved by Mike Ellis and Michael Burgin.

Their main duties were raking bunkers, hand mowing the semi-rough and blowing debris away from parts of the course, and all thrived on being a part of the committed team preparing the course for the professionals.

How you can be there next year

BIGGA members have returned from assisting in the preparation of TPC Sawgrass for the Players Championship, thanks to John Deere - and you can follow in their footsteps as the application process has opened for the 2016 event.
The Sawgrass Six

If you’re still unsure about whether to apply for this fabulous opportunity, just read these testimonies from the ‘Sawgrass Six’…

Graham Down, Aldwickbury Park Golf Club:
It was a real education working with warm season grasses compared to ours, and also learning about the different cultural practices.

Seeing the sheer amount of work that goes on behind the scenes was a real eye-opener, the organisation of the entire event was absolutely fantastic.

Joe Dormer, West Sussex Golf Club:
A phenomenal 12 days unlike anything I have experienced before, flawless organisation, unrivalled passion and motivation.

It was a life-changing experience that will stay with me forever and have a strong influence in my development as a turf and man manager. Gargantuan thanks to John Deere and BIGGA for making this happen for me.

Mike Ellis, The Point at Polzeath:
I would like to say a massive thank you to BIGGA and John Deere for this trip. All the TPC Sawgrass team were fantastic to work with. The professionalism from all the volunteers was very high. It was a joy to be there.

Michael Burgin, Normandy Hall Golf Club:
The easiest way to describe the whole experience would be to say truly amazing. This is golf at its very best and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.

The highlight of my trip had to be working on the 17th every morning as the sun came up. It was great to see so many people from all over the world all working together for one special event. The energy levels and enthusiasm from everyone were unlimited despite the 5am starts and late finishes.

Chris McArthur, Portstewart Golf Club:
What an incredible time we had in Ponte Vedra. The energy from the whole staff at TPC was expected, but nothing could prepare me for what ensued at 4.30am on arrival every morning. Singing, chanting and heavy metal was just the ticket to prepare us for the day ahead.

It was a privilege to share the experience with the other greenkeepers. Taking their advice and witnessing their aptitude to conversing with the team on such a stage was a great learning curve and they have truly become beacons for me in my turf career. Many thanks to them, BIGGA and John Deere for providing me the opportunity to grow and progress into my role in greenkeeping.

GCSAI member David Perdisatt joined the five BIGGA members and added:
I knew it was going to be special but this has surpassed anything I expected. Walking onto the 17th green every morning is something that will stay with me forever. It was great education working with warm season grasses and viewing first hand the cultural practices used to present this turf to the world. The scale of the place has still not sunk in. We put in a lot of hours, yet the positive attitude and professionalism showed by all was a pleasure to be part of. It is also an amazing networking opportunity to meet professionals from all over the world and I have many new friends and contacts as a result.

I would like to offer my thanks to John Deere and the GCSAI for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Also a massive thanks to Pete Nelder who organised everything for us while out there, and to my new friends the BIGGA Greenkeepers who made this experience even better.
The Pursuit of Progress

Henry Bechelet and Dr Andy Owen, Technical Managers at Everris, look to the GB cycling team’s philosophy for ideas on how greenkeepers can keep up with ever increasing golfer expectations.

Greenkeepers are undoubtedly producing better golfing surfaces than ever before. For greens, the standards of speed, smoothness, firmness and year round playability are way ahead of what we would have thought possible 20 years ago.

The problem is that golfers’ expectations seem to increase at an even faster rate and without any appreciation of the giant steps that we are making!

So, how do we keep up? We think that sometimes it’s good to take inspiration from other sports.

In the last two Olympics the GB cycling team have won 26 medals, far outstripping their previous level of performance and making them true world-beaters. At the heart of their success and meteoric improvement is the concept of ‘the pursuit of marginal gains’.

This philosophy suggests that small improvements made in a range of areas can all add up to a significant improvement overall. At Everris we approach greenkeeping in the same way.

The Everris Integrated Turf Management philosophy ‘iTurf’ believes that successful greenkeeping requires you to focus on each of the factors that affect turf performance and not just the material inputs.

We all know that we create high quality surfaces that perform throughout the year by balancing soil management and turf health with the challenges posed by play and environmental factors.

“To tell us something we don’t know!” we hear you shout, but if we take the ‘pursuit of marginal gains’ approach and continually focus on making those small improvements to our maintenance programmes then we might be able to achieve even higher standards. It’s called evolution.

Of course, the focus of all turf maintenance plans should remain on the fundamental practices: the nutritional programme, moisture management in the rootzone, the cutting regime, aeration and top-dressing practices, disease reduction, grass species selection and the active management of wear.

To produce an improving golf course you do need to be getting all these fundamental factors right, but of course many of you already are. The point is to make further improvements you need to constantly strive to make things better. Small adjustments in each of the key areas will add up to significant improvements overall.

There is great value in looking for small gains across a range of practices rather than getting stuck searching for a single breakthrough. Little things can make a big difference.

For example, consider macro nutrition or your major NPK inputs. Getting your nitrogen levels right is crucial for the health and performance of the turf, but there is a lot more to it than just targeting the units of nitrogen per hectare per year.

You also need to appreciate the fertiliser formulations, their ingredients and release patterns to phase the nutrient release properly through the year to maintain consistent and appropriate growth patterns and not suffer peaks and troughs of turf quality or performance. Marginal gains can come from improved knowledge and understanding.

Everris think the same way.

We are constantly working and reworking our formulations and testing them to make sure they...
are as efficient as possible. For instance, we know that the TMax component of our Greenmaster liquid fertiliser really improves the uptake of the nutrition especially at low rates of application to allow you to maintain the performance of your turf with lower inputs. We also found that by adding Zeolite to our granular formulations that we could improve longevity of release by a week on average. Incremental gains can also be achieved through investing in high quality formulations.

The area of biostimulants could come into this category. We have conducted numerous internal trials, end user trials and independent research trials on a range of biostimulant products over the years, and with quite a lot of these products we see very little visual response in terms of turf quality and turf colour let alone performance. There are occasionally exceptions to this and indeed our Vita Nova Blade biostimulant formulation came to life after extensive trials. The key is to draw from solid evidence.

We have recently come to look at seaweed products in this manner. It is rare that any immediate response will be seen from applications of a seaweed product (unless it is formulated with some macro nutrition). However, if carefully selected the right seaweed can be shown to allow the award to cope better in periods of stress. It is a tenuous link and not all seaweeds will achieve this, but we have seen responses with flanagan that suggest that the complex components of a seaweed application work in synergy to provide some plant defence to periods of drought stress, and periods of cold stress. There is still much work needed here to elicit the exact reasons for the response but it is clear the right product applied correctly could provide that extra 1% that moves the turf quality forward. Marginal gains are sometimes achieved through valuing specific formulations.

Soil moisture management is an area where there is room for substantial let alone marginal gains. Moisture management is crucial for the production of healthy turf and we all know that (as with nutrition) too much water is just as bad as too little.

This is why we are now using moisture probes to give an accurate understanding of the soil water content and we are also using wetting agents that are proven by research to help manage the soil water with more control. We understand that for our turf to perform we need to manage water correctly and the biggest gain of all is simply not to irrigate when it isn’t needed. Marginal gains often come through the use of technology to fuel our understanding. We could go on but you get the idea! The following list itemises a few of the areas where we think that marginal gains might be made. You will be dealing with some or even most of these but will you be on top of all of them?

The key is to look yourself in the mirror and ask yourself if you are doing everything you can. See The Pursuit of Progress Checklist (Inset right)...

Turf management is a complicated process, and it is essential that you start by getting the fundamentals correct. However, in the search for improvement sometimes we can overlook those small adjustments that might make all the difference.

Positive change only comes from positive action and so we must all constantly evaluate what we are doing to see if we can bring about an improvement.

So, like the GB cycling team, we need to look for those small marginal gains in all the various aspects of our turf maintenance programmes to bring about the next level of playing standards. Don’t forget that at Everris we are also working to find those incremental improvements that will help us all improve. The pursuit of progress is everyone’s job.

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For peak performance turf disease control Heritage Maxx delivers long lasting disease control, to consistently maintain outstanding turf quality.

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•Faster and more complete uptake by leaf AND root
•Tackles fungal AND soil diseases
•Magnificent SEVEN turf diseases on the label

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uphill so it wouldn’t have looked very natural.

“As we cleared all traces of the trees, we realised we could create a grassy mound from the earth we’d got. This would screen the course from the road, which is important aesthetically, but more crucial is the health and safety factor. From the first tee you hit your drive towards the road, so we needed to do everything we possibly could to protect our members and visitors from any litigation if a ball ends up on the road, and of course we have a duty to minimise the risk to the general public too. So, we secured planning permission and got started!

“The mound we’ve created is 40 metres wide, 427 metres long and nine metres tall. So it’s an excellent screen. It also adds another dimension to the hole – previously it was rather flat and bland. It’s more challenging now because if you hook your drive, you could end up on the mound. The Stroke Index has changed as a result.

“We’re also hoping it will act as a haven for wildlife. We have the traditional English bluebell and primroses that we hope will flourish in the area as they have in several other parts of the course, and we secured planning permission and got started!

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Andrew Kerr, Course Manager at West Malling Golf Club, heads an ambitious team who are turning a major blow to their course into an advantage. Steve Castle travelled to the undulating 36-hole parkland facility in Kent to see an unusual and innovative project in action.

“They butchered them”. Northern Irishman Andrew Kerr left me in no doubt about the devastation left behind by workmen who destroyed a row of mature beech and oak trees just before he joined the club three years ago.

An energy company hired a group of tree surgeons to cut back some of the trees’ branches to ensure they didn’t interfere with overhanging power lines. However, they ended up completely destroying these trees which had previously screened the course from the busy London Road, as well as adding aesthetic value to the site. As a greenkeeper and qualified arborist, Andrew was horrified.

“For years the club had nurtured these trees just to the left of the first fairway of one of the two courses. As they grew, they edged closer and closer to some overhead power cables.

“The energy company in question hired some tree surgeons who were paid per metre rather than per day. Instead of carefully removing branches and ensuring they remained healthy, they just decided to slice the heads off these trees – basically killing them so they didn’t disturb the overhanging cables.

“The result was total destruction. When I joined you could still see what had been left behind, it was terrible. The club said to me, “we’ve got this problem, can you sort it?” That was some start!

“The members saw what had been left of these poor trees and immediately assumed the greenkeepers had done it, but it was no-one’s fault here. The club knew these tree surgeons were coming in but could never have anticipated what they would leave behind.

“As far as I’m aware that particular group of tree surgeons are no longer used by that company, but that was too late for us.”

Andrew quickly utilised emails, newsletters and posters in the clubhouse and pro shop to explain that this was not something which the club had done deliberately. It was unfortunately inevitable that these trees would now die, so the greenkeeping team began to remove the leftover debris. They were then faced with the challenge of what to put in their place.

“We looked at a water feature but this is the highest part of the course, and obviously water doesn’t travel light so it wouldn’t have looked very natural.

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also have beehives placed across the site. It’s more than just the course, it’s the whole experience that’s important when someone plays a round of golf here.”

The 380 acre site boasts two fine parkland courses - Spitfire and Hurricanes - named after the iconic fighter planes that flew out of a nearby airfield during the Second World War.

It was the land to the left of the first fairway on the Spitfire course, which was affected by the tree destruction caused.

Andrew knew that as well as improving various aspects of the course through this project, he could equip the greenkeeping team with a range of new skills so they were able to manage the site and prevent the destruction caused.

He’s particularly passionate about this, and the team at West Malling complete tasks in-house as much as possible.

Firstly he ensured the ten-strong team had the relevant qualifications and training to operate the heavy machinery required to create the mound. “The skill levels of the greenkeeping team have increased, and every day they learn and enhance their existing skills. We have some Caterpillar D5 Bulldozers, 20 ton diggers and dumpers which we’ve used to move the earth – how many greenkeepers get the chance to drive those!”

“Not just using these machines, it’s thinking about what you’re doing. Because they have had proper training, they have an improved thought process. Instead of rushing in and just ploughing on with a job, they plot their way in, plot their way out and have a think about exactly where they’re putting the earth. It’s been very good for the team. Of course there have been several difficult days when things haven’t gone exactly to plan, but when you step back and look at what we’ve achieved here, and what the greenkeepers have done without any outside help, the guys are very proud and I’m very proud of them.”

The stunning site is sandwiched between the London Road and a very busy motorway yet it’s a hidden gem. As well as the native flowers, the hilly site features many mature lime trees and copper beeches. Both courses sit on sandy loam soil – a combination of sand and silt – so it drains well.

Andrew explained: “The greens are predominantly poa with some fescue. We are a members’ course, so it’s all about making the playing surfaces true and smooth and concentrating on exact density and quality, with the ultimate aim of ensuring golfers can play here 365 days a year on both courses.

“The Spitfire is full of character and is a challenging course, whereas the Hurricane is a lot flatter so is more suited to novice golfers and society days, so we have an excellent combination.”

Andrew, who is originally from Northern Ireland and spent ten years as an Amenity Technical Manager there before joining Crown Golf, then secured a Course Manager’s role at Pyrford and Merrist Wood College Courses before joining West Malling in March 2012.

Last year he was one of the candidates who attained a 100% pass rate on a BASIS Foundation Award in Amenity and Horticulture. He’s now working towards his Master Greenkeeper Certificate. “I’ve gone back to basics here, I believe in the importance of cultural practices including aeration and topdressing, and getting the right quality of sand in vital. It’s one thing doing these things but it’s another ensuring the materials you’re working with are of the required quality. “Last year we put 600 tons of sand on the 36 greens, sand rolled, aerated, vertidrained and scarified. “I believe in high standards and I strongly encourage the team to ensure all of our cutting heads are pin sharp so they don’t rip and tear the turf which would leave us wide open to disease. We do occasionally apply fungicides, but an answer from a bottle rarely is the last resort for us.”

The club faces a lot of competition from various prestigious courses nearby including The London Club, Kings Hill Golf Club, and Wildernesse Golf Club. So how does West Malling attract visitors and retain members? “It’s up to us to get the course to highest standard possible. Everything you do here, the course gives you back tenfold. If you improve an area sympathetically and try and keep it as natural as possible, it helps you out. It’s a constantly evolving site.

“We still have a long way to go, but the members – we have around 875 can see the improvements in the greens over the last couple of years and the course in general. It’s vital to keep improving and provide value for money. “I believe that golfers can see where their memberships and green fees are going. Yes, we would love to have the resources of the bigger clubs, but we work with what we’ve got. In a way I feel that’s more satisfying, working hard and delivering a great product with more limited resources.”
Ever wondered where your topdressing, bunker or construction sand comes from? The chances are it may have been supplied by BIGGA Education Supporter Mansfield Sand. They’ve recently opened a huge new quarry which safeguards long-term sand production, and Steve and James from BIGGA House went along to find out more.

Mansfield Sand have been quarrying sand in the Nottinghamshire area for nearly 200 years and supply rootzone, topdressing and bunker sand to over 400 golf courses across the UK. They also count the majority of Premier League and Football League clubs as valued clients – different grades of topdressing, bunker or construction sand are loaded onto a lorry to be dispatched each day, with over 1.5 million individual bags being despatched each year. The numbers really are exceptional. Currently around 2,000 tons of sand leave the site each day, with over 1.5 million individual bags being despatched each year. The aim is for the Ratcher Hill site to eventually cease production completely with all the company’s manufacturing processes taking place at Two Oaks.

The company have 65 full-time employees with a dedicated team of around 25 based full-time at these extremely high standards of production equipment, health and safety and site cleanliness. This ensures we can keep supplying the highest quality of sand to our clients for the next 40 years. “We also regularly meet the local resident liaison committee to ensure disruption to the local community is kept to the absolute minimum. Grass mounds, trees and shrubs screen the site. At the last meeting we held, the residents commented they wouldn’t even know the site was there.”

The company have 65 full-time employees with a dedicated team of around 25 based full-time at the new quarry, Richard Abrahams, Director/Quarry Manager, explained more. “Ultimately, this new site secures the future of Mansfield Sand and ensures we can meet the needs of our customers, which comes down to delivering a quality product and great service.

“Not one grain of sand is wasted here. The sand goes through several stages, before it is finally bagged or loaded onto a lorry to be dispatched to the end user.

“We have huge quantities of stock and we have all the varieties – different grades of topdressing, dry, moist and coarse sand. This enables us to keep up with demand which is as high as ever with some sand shortages being reported in certain areas of the country.”

The company have recently hired someone who may be familiar to some BIGGA members – former greenkeeper Craig Lalley, who previously worked at Bedale Golf Club and Flashy Golf Club. BIGGA registered Craig’s title is Football and Golf Sales Manager.

He said: “The phones have been red hot, May was a mad time for us when the football season is finishing and everyone needs sand for their renovation work.”

Another piece in the jigsaw is explained by Transport Coordinator Dale Westwood. As well as ensuring incoming and outgoing lorries comply with transport regulations, he uses an incredibly precise CCTV camera to scan inside each trailer to check they are clean enough for the sand to be loaded.

This is yet another clear example of the attention to detail required to ensure such a large operation meets its high standards.

Mansfield Sand have established excellent relationships with countless golf course facilities across the UK including St Andrews, Bearwood Lakes, Woodhall Spa and Fulford Golf Club – venue for this year’s BIGGA National Championship.

They also enjoy a very close working partnership with Rigby Taylor Golf Sales Manager Sharon Morris added that the company are hoping to exhibit at BTME 2016. From visiting the new site, it’s clear that Mansfield Sand are going from strength to strength and will continue to be a major player in the industry for many years to come.

To contact Mansfield Sand call them on 01623 622441. You can also contact Sharon or Craig directly on sharon.morris@mansfield-sand.co.uk or craig.lalley@mansfield-sand.co.uk.
Listen to what our customers say:

"The initial machine has performed superbly for us, following the contours with precision and with a superb quality of cut. I was really impressed and ordered three more without hesitation".

Eamonn Crawford, Links Manager at Royal County Down

"We had the Eclipse with 15-blade cutting cylinders for a week in the run-up to a charity event. It made such a difference to the quality of the greens in just five days that we used it. Consistency of cut across all 18 greens, significant fuel reductions and a swing out centre unit for easy maintenance are all great features on this mower".

Peter Read, Head Greenkeeper at Hunstanton Golf Club

"The AR522 is an absolutely fantastic mower; its power is incredible and the quality of cut is superb. We tried competitor machines during the procurement process, but this mower stood out from the pack. The change in playing condition of the semi has been really noticeable and has been commented upon by members. A very good machine!"

Chris Yeaman, Course Manager at The Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh

"I purchased two Jacobsen Eclipse 322 diesel-electric hybrid greens mowers back in 2010 and they haven’t missed a beat. Both have completed over 800 hours of work and their fuel economy is superb, using just 1.5 litres of diesel for every 18 holes. I also have five Jacobsen Eclipse2 walkers; the technology’s the same, the quality of cut is outstanding, they give us more flexibility and I would recommend them to anyone."

Gary Johnstone, Links Manager, Portmarnock Golf Club

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4. A subsidy request form must be completed and authorised prior to the deal payout stage.
5. The terms are exclusive to Hitachi Capital and these terms may be amended or withdrawn at any time by written notice.
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Stress relief

Dan Lightfoot MG and Marcela Munoz from Syngenta advise greenkeepers how to ensure turf survives ‘renovation week’

RenoVAtion Week

Stress relief

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Renovation week is one of the most stressful periods of the year for turf, and for greenkeepers. It frequently pitches greenkeepers and turf managers into direct conflict with the most vociferous players, where – despite the necessary maintenance intended to deliver better conditions for the rest of the season and future years – even a brief interruption in play is often deemed unacceptable.

After a relatively benign winter, for most courses, physical thatch reduction from greens surfaces will be the primary objective along with improved aeration to aid drainage and overseeding where required.

Highlighting the issues of thatch management for renovation, a recent STRI report identified golf greens currently contain surface organic matter levels on average 50% higher than desirable for optimal turf health and playability. Some parkland courses, for example, were recorded with more than 25% organic matter in the top 20mm, compared to a target of four to six percent.

However, intensive mechanical processes such as scarifying to remove thatch, hollow coring to alleviate compaction, intensive topdressing and brushing can prove incredibly disruptive to existing turf. That imposes immense stress on plants, along with damage that could provide an open entry point for disease pathogens into the leaf, and at a time when it is more susceptible to infection, warned Syngenta Technical Manager, Marcela Munoz.

Furthermore, the risk may be compounded by disrupting the thatch layer that may be embedded with disease spores, and trigger a flare up of infection at a time when plants are most susceptible to attack.

Where greenkeepers can start with healthy turf going into renovation week, and take every step to minimise the impact of all factors that impose stress on the plant, there is the opportunity for faster recovery of playing surface quality and assuring greater player satisfaction.

Proactive protection

“It is a highly advisable precaution to ensure turf goes into renovation as clean as possible, and that plants have sufficient fungicide protection in place before disease strikes,” said Marcela. “With turf actively growing during the renovation timing, systemic activity is crucial to ensure the fungicide moves quickly to infection points, where disease has penetrated leaf stomata or wound damage caused by mechanical damage.”

The actives in Headway are proven for all key summer turf pathogens, including Microdochium (Fusarium) Patch, Anthracnose, Leaf Spots and Dollar Spot, along with reducing the incidence of Fairy Ring and Take-All.
Physiological relief
Not only does azoxystrobin have a visual effect on the leaf, but the huge investment in R&D has also shown that inside the plant there are physiological benefits from the increased level of anti-oxidants, stimulated by turf health enhancements. Anti-oxidant levels in treated plants were some 20% higher than untreated.

Increasing the level of anti-oxidants in the leaf provides a valuable buffer against the effects of free radicals created in turf plants under stress. Marcela explained that with any cell division there is some creation of free radicals, which are molecules that are short of an electron, and can cause damage to the cell as they seek to redress the imbalance. During periods of stress, however, the number of free radicals created increases dramatically.

At the same time, anti-oxidants typically have a spare electron, which they can donate to the free radical so that it is back in balance and stops causing damage to the cell. In healthy turf there are normally sufficient anti-oxidants available to cope, but during periods of stress any shortage quickly leads to leaf tissue damage and, ultimately, death.

“By boosting the plant’s level of anti-oxidants you can effectively buy time before the effects of stress start to impact on turf health and quality,” she pointed out. “It will not eliminate the effects of stress, but when the stress imposition is temporary, such as during renovation, in can give sufficient time for the plant to recover naturally.”

“Using agronomy tools to enhance the buffer of anti-oxidants before renovation - or any other stress periods - is increasingly recognised as good practice to minimise turf damage and aid faster recovery.”

Growth regulation
Syngenta Business Manager, Daniel Lightfoot MG, also advocated scheduling a Primo Maxx programme during the renovation process can play a very important part to ensure quick recovery of surfaces, whilst keeping growth under control. “If you can get the timing right it can really help,” he added.

To further aid renovation and fast recovery of the surface, its physiological effects will encourage lateral growth of plants to fill in gaps. “With less energy used in vertical leaf growth, treated plants develop a greater root mass that helps to reduce the impact of mechanical renovation damage and enables faster recovery.”

Primo Maxx will also increase the chlorophyll concentration in the leaf, which enhances the visual appearance and increases its photosynthetic efficiency. Plants also become more efficient at transpiration, which can further help to alleviate stress where water availability is frequently disrupted during the renovation process.

Where greenkeepers are also overseeding during renovation, Primo Maxx trials by STRI have consistently shown that maintaining the existing award in growth regulation can enable faster and up to 35% more successful seedling establishment.

Mechanical stress
Dan also urged greenkeepers to minimise any external factors that could impose stress on the plant. High on the list during spring would be checking soil nutrition, with the importance of providing sufficient appropriate fertility to kick-start new seedling growth, as well as maintaining existing turf recovery, without enhancing disease pressure.

“It’s a tough balance to ensure that nutrient deficiency does not restrict recovery or put further stress factors on the turf, whilst trying to ensure you do not get excessive and unmanageable growth!” he suggested. “A combination of controlled release balanced nutrient source, specific instant availability liquid feeds and micronutrients can be tailored to best meet the needs of individual greens.”

With the focus of time often on the physical process of getting renovation completed, he highlighted the importance of machinery maintenance and set-up to minimise mechanical stress on turf. If mower blades are dulled by sand topdressing, for example, it would result in greater tearing of the leaf and create an easy entry point for disease, compared to a sharp, clean cut. The use of a lightweight roller at this time can be useful to allow the greens to recover, reduce plant stress through cutting and prevent blade damage and subsequent grass injury.

Dan also pointed out that many of the mechanical renovations processes can lead to soils drying out. “In these conditions there is a major role for Qualibra wetting agent. It can help to move water down from the surface for more effective operations such as topdressing and sand brushing, whilst holding moisture deeper to alleviate stress on the turf and retain the availability of nutrients.”

“With the huge initiative of National Golf Month in May, the whole industry was geared up to attracting many more people to give the game a go,” he said. “It is so important for greenkeepers and course managers to get the renovations completed and the course back in the best possible condition to give them a good experience, and keep them coming back.”
Conservation in Ayrshire

How Scottish courses have teamed up with Germinal Seeds to bring back the UK’s smallest butterfly

An ambitious wildlife conservation project to reinstate the UK’s smallest butterfly back onto the western coast of Scotland has been launched by the Ayrshire Sustainability Group.

“By working with other golf courses and local companies, we hope to establish a chain of connected environments which will enable the initial colony to thrive and expand,” said Amanda Darana, greenkeeper at Dundonald Links.

“The success of the project was dependent on finding a source of high quality Kidney Vetch seed, and we are pleased to have been supported by Germinal who donated enough seed to create a suitable environment at the Dundonald Links and Royal Troon.”

Steve Isaac, Course Management Director at The R&A said: “The Small Blue project is an important piece of collaborative work which demonstrates how golf can drive other businesses to deliver environmental and social benefits to communities. The R&A is delighted to support this project and we look forward to seeing the results of habitat restoration to encourage the recovery of local populations of the Small Blue butterfly.”

The Small Blue (Cupido minimus) is the UK’s smallest resident butterfly. With a wingspan often not exceeding 16mm, its small size makes it vulnerable to local climatic and habitat changes. Although it is classed as not threatened, the Small Blue’s status throughout the UK is declining, with the main colonies being located in the south of England and northwest of Scotland where its only food plant, Kidney Vetch, grows within calcareous grasslands and coastal sand dune systems.

The conservation project, which is being supported by seven Ayrshire golf clubs, local businesses and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, has been implemented following the release of a colony of Small Blue butterflies at Gailes Marsh Reserve adjacent to Dundonald Links. It is hoped that by increasing Kidney Vetch at each of the participating sites, this isolated colony will be able to expand and establish itself along the coastline once again.

“The Small Blue was last seen in Ayrshire in 1982,” explained Bob Taylor, Senior Consultant Ecology & Environment at STRI. “As such the group was keen to see the reestablishment of these iconic butterflies across Ayrshire and hopes that last year’s release at Gailes Marsh, and this year’s planned release at Dundonald Links will enable the species will be able to expand along the coastline once again.”

Key to establishing a viable population is the creation and management of good quality, varied grasslands that provide shelter for the adults and where early successional conditions are appropriate for the establishment of Kidney Vetch.

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Gill Smart, local reserves manager for the Scottish Wildlife Trust added: “Progress with the Small Blue project was dependent on finding a source of high quality Kidney Vetch seed, and we are pleased to have been supported by Germinal who donated enough seed to create a suitable environment at the Dundonald Links and Royal Troon.”

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Giuseppe Ventura, Technical Sales Representative for Germinal in Scotland, said: “The successful establishment of a habitat rich with Kidney Vetch requires open ground conditions, a lack of competition and quality seed of a known local provenance. “We were therefore delighted to be able to support the conservation project, and look forward to keeping up to date with the colony’s progress as it hopefully spreads along the Ayrshire coast.”
Compact and bijou

The compact tractor is now an essential piece of kit for greenkeepers, but with so many models on the market, it can be hard to decide what’s right for you. Steve Pickwell, Kubota Product Manager (Groundcare) offers guidance on choosing the right model

There will always be a demand for specialist machinery in the golf market. The one-stop-shop solution is impractical for the soil or damage drainage. Another important factor is operator satisfaction. Choose a machine that’s designed to care for your surfaces while maintaining them is crucial. Ensure that the chosen model will do minimum damage to the turf, and as stated earlier, will not compact the soil or damage drainage. Another important factor is operator satisfaction. Choose a machine that your operators are happy with and one that is comfortable to use for extended periods, particularly in times of high frequency maintenance. If you can, trial a number of machines, and of course, when your choice has been made, you need to have the tractor professionally installed and handed over, so that all controls are clear and easy to use.

Choosing an established brand with excellent dealer relations is key. This has been central to Kubota’s offering for decades. We introduced the first hydrostatic transmission systems for compact tractors and diesel ride-on mowers, a feature which allows the speed of forward or reverse travel to be instantly and infinitely varied without any change in engine speed. This also has an impact on the finished product when using a powered implement, as the hydrostatic transmission ensures consistency of cut as there’s no reduction in the rotational speed of the tractor’s power take-off shaft. Bi-Speed Turn is another key benefit of the Kubota offering. This system automatically speeds up a tractor’s front wheels when turning, resulting in faster, tighter turns with improved control. When purchased, a 60hp tractor on a 9-hole course may not give you best economy. In clubs, and for best flexibility, you should be looking at between 26 and 58HP, but an approved dealer will be able to advise on the best choice for your particular application. The compact market is changing rapidly, and new developments are being implemented as we speak. The wider market has experienced its fair share of ups and downs, but thankfully we are emerging stronger from the recession. 2014 showed very encouraging signs for the industry, and indications suggest that a trend for increased horsepower tractors within the compact market (towards the bracket 30-50hp) is on the rise, with customers increasingly looking to do more tasks with a single machine, rather than running multiple fleets. With a current market of between 2000-2500 compact machines, there are definitely green shoots peeking through, in every respect. To find out more about Kubota’s compact tractor range, visit Kubota.co.uk or get in touch with your local Kubota dealer to see discuss your options.
Impacts on the Amenity sector of the Sustainable use Directive 2012 (SUD)

The EU Parliament and Council Directive 2009/128/EC introduced new legislative provisions to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticides use on human health and environment and promoting the use of integrated pest management (IPM) and other non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.


The directive includes a number of provisions aimed at achieving the sustainable use of pesticides by reducing risks and impacts on human health and the environment. These include:

1. A National Action Plan
2. Compulsory testing of application equipment
3. Provision of training for, and arrangements for the certification of, operators, advisors and distributors
4. Provisions for Operators using Plant Protection Products (PPP) to protect water, public spaces and conservation areas
5. The minimisation of risks from handling, storage and disposal
6. The promotion of low input regimes including Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The progress of these provisions is to be measured through the use of ‘risk indicators’.

Whilst this regulation came into force in July 2012, a number of key areas need to be completed in the near future.

Machinery Testing

All plant protection product application equipment, which is ridden on by the operator, has to be certified prior to 26 November 2016. Application machinery purchased new after 26 November 2011 will have been certified, but has to be tested within five years. The certification process in the UK comes under the National Sprayer Testing Scheme.

The scheme has over 600 approved examiners who can certificate application machinery and enter the equipment on to a national database. This service is being facilitated by machinery companies and distributors such as Rigby Taylor.

Certificate of competence

Operators using ‘professional’ products must obtain suitable certification prior to applying such products. In the UK plant protection products are registered for use by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD). CRD is responsible for the regulation of biocides, pesticides, detergents, chemicals covered by REACH, and for compliance with the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation.

CRD have two classifications of pesticides - ‘Amateur’ and ‘Professional’. The former can be used as per the label instructions by any competent user. Operators born on or before 31 December 1964 have traditionally had an exemption to this ruling under “grandfather rights”. This exemption will no longer be valid from 25 November 2015. After this date operators have to obtain a suitable certification in order to use “professional” products e.g. to apply professional products to amenity grass via a knapsack an operator must hold a valid PA1 (safe use foundation qualification) and PA6 (knapsack) certificate.

CPD

Training and updating operators and users in the correct use of pesticides is a central pillar of the SUD regulations. The government will be looking to monitor this via users undergoing continued professional development. For the Amenity sector this will be organised by BASIS under the BASIS amenity training register. This scheme has a number of levels of obtainment and will suit operators, advisors and anyone closely connected to the Amenity sector.

The register will provide the government with a verifiable method of measuring continued development in the Amenity sector at all levels. The Industry and companies such as Rigby Taylor will be providing customers with the opportunity to obtain points at meetings, seminars and exhibitions. Companies own internal training and briefing can be submitted to BASIS for Amenity training register points. This is a form of integrated control, as by pulling the ragwort you are reducing the seed bank and starting an IPM programme.

The site will need to be visited in either the autumn or spring to treat the young seedlings at rosette stage of the plant – at this stage they are easier to control and in a non-grazing situation application of a product such as leads will provide a high level of control at low gram/ha of product. It is important in the spring to make sure you spray before the ragwort starts stem elongation.

Calibration of spraying equipment either boomed or spot treatment is important. The techniques are simple and are covered in the certification process. Reminder packs for operators, which also have a CPD function, will be issued each year. The pack will include a QR reader to assist with training and personal development.

Protection of water, public spaces and conservation areas

Correct timing of applications of pesticides improves per unit application and minimises impact on the environment. It can also allow optimisation of application rates. Advisors are able to guide customers to achieve this objective and to also offer alternative means of control. Controlling ragwort in an amenity grassland or rough situation is a good example.

Products need to be applied using the correct droplet spectrum for the target weed or disease. Product labels specify the optimal droplet spectrum e.g. Medium/Coarse and to help visualise the differences, water sensitive paper can be sprayed using different droplet spectrums.

For the application of a product requiring soil activity a VC/XC spectrum with high water rates should be used. For selective broadleaf weed control a P/M/C spectrum will provide optimum results under a wide range of conditions.

Peter Corbett from Rigby Taylor looks at the impact the Sustainable use Directive will have on the amenity turf sector and what greenkeepers can do to comply

Promotion of low input regimes

Users, managers and advisors need to look at existing programmes and practices and consider alternative regimes for managing pests and diseases. This may include lower quantities of pesticides or pesticides with better environmental profiles – the information required to assess the latter are available for all products via SDS or E25 documents. In some situations, replacing multiple glyphosate application with a single water flow into the label make of these droplets is dependent on the type of nozzle, water pressure and spray viscosity.
Bayer’s Dave Orchard advises greenkeepers how to act to reduce the chances of weeds invading turfgrass

Weeds in turfgrass are unavoidable and can be difficult to treat. Although there are products out there to control them, such as Longbow from Bayer which is now approved for Speedwell control, it is important to reduce the chances of weeds invading turfgrass in the first place.

A dense, vigorously growing, competitive stand will resist weeds, according to Dave Orchard from Bayer. Integrated weed management focuses on selecting, establishing, and maintaining a competitive standard of grass. While it’s difficult to eliminate all weeds from turf, in well-maintained cases it’s possible to prevent large, irregular patches of weeds, which both make it unattractive, and reduce its utility.

The main objective for turf managers is to keep weed populations below levels that are incompatible with the purpose of the turf, according to Dave.

He commented: “The first step is preparing the site properly and choosing an appropriate turfgrass species for the location, followed by cultural practices that contribute to turf health: proper irrigation, mowing, fertilisation, thatch removal, and aeration. Improved turf health allows grass to recover more quickly, and withstanding insect, disease, and environmental damage.”

Healthy turf also out-competes weeds and reduces any chance of them becoming established. Dave added: “Herbicides are used as tools in turf management where high quality turf is required: however, their use should be integrated with a good cultural programme.”

Turfgrass can be established and maintained to discourage weeds in the turf, or to decrease the chances of weed invasion. “Any condition that exposes the soil surface to additional light makes that area more susceptible to weeds. Factors that contribute to poor turf health include overwatering or underwatering, mowing too low or too high, excessive wear, disease or insect damage, soil compaction and excessive shading.”

In order to ensure turf health at its optimum level, there needs to be a balance between these factors. And grass nutrition and irrigation must be well balanced, to ensure a tight knot sward. “If the grass is thick like a carpet, weed seeds can’t land and germinate.”

Longbow contains 70g/L MCPP-P (ae) and 20g/L 2,4-D (ae), 70g/L MCPA (ae), and 42g/L MCPP-P (ae) and 20g/L 2,4-D (ae) and can be applied via a knapsack sprayer or a tractor-mounted boom sprayer.

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If you do have weeds, herbicides can be used, but must be applied carefully and accurately, as part of a good overall turf management programme. “Before applying a herbicide, such as Longbow from Bayer, carefully refer to the label for conditions of use. Pay particular attention to application rates, methods and precautions.”

“When using any herbicide for the first time, apply at the recommended rate on a limited area to make sure it’s successful under local conditions. Excessive rates, improper timing, or application errors of selective herbicides can injure or kill good turf. Insufficient application, on the other hand, usually results in failure or incomplete weed control.”

It’s also important to remember that herbicide formulations can change, and it’s crucial for turf managers to be aware of changes and new approvals. One such recent approval change is to Longbow. It’s now approved for the control of Speedwell ( Veronica spp.) in amenity turf, as a result of a label extension.

“Speedwell is a troublesome weed that’s well-known for its resilience and difficulty to control. There are a limited number of products with Speedwell on the label. Speedwell control can be a particular issue for greenkeepers, given its ability to root quickly, even from small sections, meaning it can get out of hand fast if untreated, and spread across greens and fairways. Speedwell is also difficult to treat because of its small leaves.

“In a market where selective herbicides are diminishing, it’s encouraging that this improved label for Longbow will come as welcome news to greenkeepers.”

Last year, the industry saw selective herbicides vanishing at an alarming rate, and many have not been reapproved for this year. This has reduced the greenkeeper’s range of options when combating weeds, and has the potential to weaken every-day defences against the common weeds.

“Longbow provides broad spectrum weed control for all areas of golf courses including greens and tees. The product can be used to treat common weeds such as Daisy (Bellis perennis), Common Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale), Clover (Trifolium spp.), and Knotgrass (Polygonum aviculare).”

In addition to the approval for Speedwell application, the updated label now states a reduction in application rate, dropping from 10/ha to 7.5/ha. This means less is needed to treat a wider area and, for ease of use, it’s now approved for tractor-mounted application. This means that treating weeds will be easier and more effective.

Longbow can be applied to all turf, sports and amenity grasslands and lawns from April to September when weeds are actively growing, and can be applied via a knapsack sprayer or a tractor-mounted boom sprayer.

“The formulation of Longbow allows uptake through both the leaves and the roots. This two-pronged attack provides robust weed control and effectiveness against a wide range of turf weeds. The five litre bottle pack size will remain the same, but now the treatment goes further.”

“The news of this label extension is fantastic for greenkeepers, but it’s important that they instil good turf management practice.”

“The healthier and thicker the grass, the less likely you are to have weeds. Good turf management practices should discourage weeds from coming in the first place.”
Headland Amenity’s Operations Director Mark de Ath advises greenkeepers how and when to use spraying products as the cold spring is finally replaced by (hopefully!) warm summer months.

This year, and not for the first time, we’ve had an unusually cool spring. The warm dry April days were often followed by cold nights with differences of 15°C between day and night temperatures not uncommon. April days were often followed by cool spring. The warm dry days, we’ve had an unusually dry spring. This year, and not for the first time, we’ve had an unusually warm dry spring.

This enables complete control of weeds, or uptake by the plant in the case of plant growth regulators. The addition of Headland’s Transport Ultra for example adds very little to the overall cost, particularly if retreatment costs are factored in.

Another factor that could cause poor weed control is hard water. Quite a large area of the UK has hard water – if your kettle furs up you are in a hard water area. Hard water is water that has high levels of calcium, magnesium and bicarbonate ions with high pH. Bicarbonate ions are known to react in the spray tank solution with many herbicides making them less available to the plant and therefore you can get a reduction in weed control.

So if you are starting with some of the herbicide locked up and the weather is not playing ball, or you have difficult weeds like Speedwell to control, then your herbicide application could do with a helping hand.

You want to ensure that every drop of herbicide you apply reaches the weed. This helping hand can come in the form of water conditioners such as Headland’s Transport Ultra.

Water conditioners lock up the bicarbonate, magnesium and calcium ions preventing them reacting with the chemical in your spray tank.

In order to prevent lock up, the water conditioner should be added to the spray tank first and then the chemical afterwards.

The use of herbicides does not control a particular weed species, headland’s Transport Ultra for example adds very little to the overall cost, particularly if retreatment costs are factored in.

Recently I received a copy of an analysis of a bore hole water sample which we tested to try and understand why products were not working as well.

The analysis showed very high pH with a reading greater than 8 which in my experience is probably about as high as it can get.

The sample also contained high levels of bicarbonate ions. This is a situation where Transport Ultra would help greatly.

An obvious reason for poor weed control can also be cutting the grass (and the weeds) straight after spraying, with the result that most of your investment ends up in the mower boot! Check the product label and take note of the cutting interval before and after spraying.

Keep on other members of your team informed as they may not aware that spraying has taken place. It will save expensive re-treatment costs.

Top Right: Stats from Headland Weather Check
Bottom Right: Meteoturf

**Optimising spray performance**

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**Headland Amenity’s Operations Director Mark de Ath advises**

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**Herbicides, plant growth regulators and foliar fertilisers work best when there is good strong growth.**

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Using ryegrasses on a golf course

Barenbrug’s Research and Development Manager David Greenshields explores how perennial ryegrasses can be used successfully

It’s all about the blend
Specific applications and environmental conditions demand different characteristics and performance capability.

Within the ryegrass species, characteristics such as tolerance to wear, drought, disease, salt, shade, mowing height, cool temperature growth, leaf width, colour and recovery following stress vary considerably. The extensive ryegrass breeding and applied research and development programme at Barenbrug enables us to offer greenkeepers a distinct development programme at Barenbrug breeding and applied research and of our Research Stations, including our trial site at Crospakle in Worcestershire and at Bingley, as part of the RPR Turfgrass Seed Trials at assessments.

In terms of individual cultivars, Baroerl and Barcrystalla have excelled in recent years.

Different wear actions impact varying degrees of damage, whether through high footfall on golf courses or the demands of a tee.

Environmental conditions and maintenance programmes also impact on the capability of a cultivar to withstand wear pressure.

Wear tolerance must be considered alongside such pressures as disease, mowing height, shade, nutrient input and drought when choosing your blend of ryegrasses. Such constraints significantly influence its capability to tolerate wear. In almost all circumstances, a combination of varieties – a tailored synergistic seed mixture – will outperform any individual cultivar.

Choosing perennial ryegrasses for close mowing
When considering ryegrass varieties for use in golf, fineness of leaf is a particularly important characteristic. There is a strong correlation between fine leaf width and the ability of a cultivar to tolerate the lower heights of cut associated with golf.

In addition, it is common for ryegrasses to be blended with fine-fescues – put simply, the finest ryegrasses look far better aesthetically in a mowed sward.

The graph below highlights the remarkable breeding achievements that have created an unrivalled portfolio of extremely fine-leaved cultivars for golf over the last decade. Barenbrug and more recently Barlynicum and Barolympholic have all set new standards for the species.

If ryegrasses are needed to combine heavy wear tolerance and close mowing, selecting a synergistic blend of varieties like Bar Extreme is recommended. This provides good all round disease tolerance, excellent cleanliness of cut and exceptional cool-temperature performance.

The adoption of Bar Extreme as a direct mix allows successful repairs to be made earlier and later in the year and it has even shown to extend the playing season when used on tees for a protracted period.

Comparison of fine-leaved varieties compared to good wear tolerant sports varieties (Table L1 Turfgrass Seed 2014)

If you are combining ryegrasses with fescue for medium/fine turf applications, then selecting a variety with the finest leaf possible and mid-green colour is often considered best practice. Bar Platinum blends 30% Bargold with 70% fescue to offer a greater degree of wear tolerance, whilst maintaining exceptional turf quality and aesthetics. The blend contains first-rated Chestwings and slender creeping fescues Barlineus and Viktorka, and it has been used with great success on all areas of golf courses.

Bar Medal increases the Bargold portion to 60%, along with 40% slender creeping fescue, to deliver a compromise to those looking for increased wear tolerance in a rich and dense sward for medium-fine turf areas.

The future of ryegrasses?
The newest addition to our portfolio of golf mixtures is Extreme RPR, a blend that supplements the benefits of Bar Extreme with reclamation Regenerating Perennial Ryegrass technology. Barenbrug-bred RPR cultivars, such as Barclay II, provide a new dimension for the species by being able to produce determinate stolons as they develop and grow.

This development allows perennial ryegrass to spread further into its surrounding area, potentially repairing gaps in the sward as they appear. This is great news for anyone using ryegrass for diversion repair or overseeding by mechanised means, such as a disc seeder, as RPR has the ability to ‘fill in’ more quickly than conventional varieties.

RPR has been used with phenomenal global success for winter sports pitches, and now course managers and head greenkeepers have access to this exciting development in a dedicated blend for golf.

David Greenshields

Using quality perennial ryegrass mixtures can make a massive improvement on the wear tolerance and longevity of your tees, walkways and divot repairs.

Changing opinions
In some quarters, there is still a slight stigma attached to using ryegrass on golf courses, although the naysayers are now very much in the minority.

The species has developed so much in recent times that I would be the first to think of any golf course in the UK that wouldn’t benefit from its use in certain areas. The key is to ensure you choose the right combination of cultivars for each specific job.

Robert said: “Using Bar Extreme ensures the paths can withstand high use and tear. We have a lot of narrow paths and pinch points around the course that take a lot of wear but because of the eye content we are able to keep grass on them all year round and present them to a high standard.”

Robert also uses the product on par 3 tees and the short fairways, where people tend to walk on. He added: “Some new ryegrasses are so fine leaved, you really struggle to tell the difference between them and fescue.”

According to Robert, working on the hard pathways back to grass has made a huge visual improvement - softening the landscape of the entire course. “We now use grass paths to honey and they are a great enhancement to the appearance of the golf course.”
Events Coming Up

**NORTH EAST**
- Spring tournament at Sharpley Springs GC, this was the first time the section had been here and the first time many of us had played it and all agreed what a super course it is! Thanks to Richard Hudd and his team for the fantastic condition of his course and the fabulous weather they gave us, and thanks to all at the club for their hospitality.

**CLEVELAND**
- So we are finally into full swing at Richmond Golf Club the grass is now growing in that typically parkland style, thick and fast! I swear if I stop for just a second you can see it growing behind me! PGAs at the ready it’s going to be a hectic couple of months on the plus side no seed heading, yet!
- On 15 April Greenlaw held a machinery presentation day at Middlesbrough Municipal GC the day was well attended by around 50 people. It was great to see all the products they have to offer and have a chance to speak to the manufacturers.
- The Spring Tournament which was held at Blackwell Golf Club on Wednesday 29 April. This is the first time I can remember the Cleveland section ever playing here and it showed in the attendance which was a sell out with tee times being moved a little earlier to accommodate the demand.
- The course was in excellent condition with the greens rolling beautifully well done to Doug Avery and his team for all their hard work. The weather played a big part in the day with bright sunshine, hail and wind which I argue affected my game considerably!

**SHEFFIELD**
- The next Section Golf Competition is on 22 July at Abbeydale GC sponsored by Mansfield Sand, to enter contact Lee Greveson on 07808 052647.
- The Phoenix GC are holding a charity day on 25 June where a team of 14 from the Phoenix GC will play against a team of 14 from The Riffles Golf Society in memory of Li Col Bob Nickard. All in aid of the Captains Charity, The Riffles Care for Carcassita. Visiting teams can also enter in pairs or teams of two. The entry fee is £120 for 4, £60 per pair. To book please call 01795 382624.

**NORTH WEST**
- Congratulations to Jonny Roberts of Preston Golf Club and his wife Kirey on the birth of their baby girl.
- We would also like to congratulate Scott Reeves who has become Northern Region Chairman, Jez Hughes as stepped down from the role due to him following a new career path with Symbio, we wish you all the luck the world, Jez.
- Welcome also to James Dudley, senior greenkeeper at Warrington GC who has recently become a member of BIGGA.
- Good luck to all at The Mere, West Lancs and Hillside for the upcoming open qualifying events.
- We are running a feature called meet the member, designed to get all of our members to get to know each other and well be starting with the committee. This will be going out over our Facebook page.

**NORTH WALES**
- The spring tournament and course walk took place at Heidle Park GC on 29 April, this was an individual stabilford qualifier for the national tournament, we would like to thank Henkle for holding the event and also to thank Hue and team for a course in beautiful condition. Results:
  - Cat 1 - 1 Phil Watson 33pts (national qualifier)
  - Cat 2 - 1 Hayden Jones 36 2 Tim Coombs 33 pts
  - Trade winner Phil Collins 37. Guest winner Trevor Rowslands 36 pts. Nearest the pin Mike Hughes on 12th, Jez Hughes on the 15th.
- Andrew Gwilliam has stepped up to Head Greenkeeper at Vale of Llangollen GC with myself as deputy and advised by Chris Roberts agronomy services.
- Luke Williams of Wesham GC is on the support team at Wentworth we hope he enjoys and learns a lot from this opportunity.

**SCOTLAND**
- The Spring Golf Competition took place at The Phoenix Golf Club, the course was well prepared by Graham Pickin and the team, and all agreed what a super course it is! Thanks to Richard Hudd and his team for the fantastic condition of his course and the fabulous weather they gave us, and thanks to all at the club for their hospitality.
- The Section held a seminar at the end of April with Michael Astrop from Continue to Learn. Michael gave a very useful insight into managing people and situations and those who attended appreciated the opportunity of free education and training within the Section.
- The Spring Golf Competition took place at The Phoenix Golf Club, the course was well prepared by Graham Pickin and the team, and all agreed what a super course it is! Thanks to Richard Hudd and his team for the fantastic condition of his course and the fabulous weather they gave us, and thanks to all at the club for their hospitality.
- We all enjoyed the day and the winners were 1st with 36 points Anthony Whittington from Workhop GC, 2nd, 3rd and 4th all had 33 points on front Steve Pickering from The Grange GC, Matthew Holden from Siddlescombe GC and Joel France from The Hallamshire GC, nearest the pin won by Neil Peters of Barlborough Links.

A little bit of movement around the trade has seen Chris Fiddler move from Turf Care to Amenity Technology. All the best in your new job.

**NORTHERN**
- I hope everyone is now in full swing and looking forward to a busy but productive summer. The recent section Golf Day was held at Selly Golf Club. The turnout was unfortunately low but everyone who attended had a good day. Results:
  - Div 1: 1 Gary Fearon 2 Andy Slimpley 3 Dave Collins. Div 2: 1 Ben Jackson 2 Paul Wild 3 Steve Trousdale. The trade winner was Mel Guy with Gary Potter in 2nd place. The winner of the “nearest the pin” although no-one hit the green was Gary Fearon who had a great day as he also won the raffle!
- A massive thank you to Selly Golf Club for holding the event, for a well presented golf course (even if I say so myself), and also to the caterers for the excellent food and service.
- Congratulations to Neil Hordon on his appointment at Lindrick Golf Club. Everyone in the section sends their best wishes. Also congratulations to Paul Neve, pictured right, who completes 25 years of service at Brough GC in June.
Events Coming Up

NORTH
It’s the North Section’s turn to host the BIGGA Scottish Championship this year, which will be held at Port Seton GC on Thursday 6 August. It would be great to have a good support from the section, so get your application in early to guarantee your tee time. The entry forms are available on the Scottish website. The first field is limited to 90 entrants, so it will be based on work commitments that may have restricted attendance in the August instead of June to try and avoid the holiday period and work commitments that may have restricted attendance in the August instead of June to try and avoid the holiday period.

The committee have also been actively recruiting for two volunteers required for the Ladies Scottish Open being held at Dundonald Links in July. Contact Frank Clarkson for further details on frank.clarkson@dundonaldlinks.com or 07872 673838. Please note that no technical experience is required as training will be provided.

Two new social events are being planned:

A reminder that nominations for the patrons award are open until the end of July, forms are downloadable from the BIGGA Scottish Region website and must be returned to the appropriate education office.

For the East Section that’s Scott Corrigan. Our AGM is at Dundas Park on 31 July. For any more information please contact John Young.

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND
Two volunteers required for the Ladies Scottish Open being held at Dunvegan Links in July.
Contact Frank Clarkson for further details on frank.clarkson@dundonaldlinks.com or 07872 673838. Please note that no previous experience is required as training will be provided.

A social event to the calendar was suggested at the recent committee meeting, so if anyone has any ideas then please get in touch.

Pre Open 2016 course walk 24 September Royal Troon GC.
Lunch venue still to be confirmed.

Autumn Golf Outing 3 September Brodick GC Arran.
Ecology course walk/workshop with Bob Taylor at Powfoot GC 10 November.

WEST
The Scottish Golf Championship is at Port Seton golf club in August instead of June to try and avoid the holiday period and work commitments that may have restricted attendance in the past.

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For the East Section that’s Scott Corrigan. Our AGM is at Dundas Park on 27 October.

CENTRAL
As mentioned last month we have a course walk planned for The Old Course so watch out for any emails.

News

SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND
Open Fever has once again gripped the country so with this in mind, so on behalf of the Section I’d like to wish Gordon Moir and all of his team every success.

Welcome to Andrew Thomson at West Kilbride and to new board member Trump Turnberry’s Wullie McMeikan. Congratulations to the Scottish Region team who triumphed in the annual “prudge match” against GCMA on Jim’s home turf, West Kilbride. The day ended with dinner and a score of 3.5-2.5 – well done chaps!

Thank you to Billy McLaughlin and his team a Royal Troon for kindly opening the course for a pre Open 2016 tour on September 24, and good luck to former greenkeeper Daryll Burdett who has joined Riga Taylor.

NORTH
The first outing of 2015 was on 28 April at Newmacher GC.
Everyone enjoyed the day and as usual, our chairman thanked the club for allowing us to use all the facilities. The course was presented well by Dale Robertson, Patrick Wood and his staff, especially the greens, which were extremely quick for the time of year. Thankfully the snow showers slowed them down! Results:

Scratch – 1 C Lamb 69, 2 A Lindsay 72. Class 1 – 1 G Mitchell 69, 2 B Patterson 71, 3 R Macara 74, Class 2 – 1 K Spowart 70, 2 M McLaren 72, 3 J Stuart 73. Class 3 – 1 N McLaughlin 75 BB, D Robertson 75 BB, 3 R Kelly 77, Apprentice Winner C Lamb 69.


Josh Lister has moved from Fraserburgh GC to become the Head Greenkeeper at Inch. We wish him all the best in his new position.

All the best to Newmacher GC as they prepare to host their EuroPro Tour event.

WEST
I recently mentioned wetters in these notes and received one reply – thank you Cec! I thoroughly enjoyed reading your comments. Results from the spring outing:

Scratch – 1 John Dale (Bendronan) Class 1, Chris Prior (Beaunedon) 34pts, Gerry Bruen (Williamwood) 34, Alistair Reid (Williamwood) 34, Class 2 – Ryan Brim (Glasgow) 39, Kenny Hunter (Clobe) 36, Graham King (High King Sands) 35, Class 3 – Gordon Howatt (Souters) 36, Gerry Bradly (Glasgow) 35, Stephen Gigher (East Kilbogie) 35. Longest drive Gerry Bruen, nearest pin Stuart Taylor. Due to the lack of trophies once they have been recovered in future they will be retained by committee to prevent theft.

Some 34 players took part and enjoyed a really well presented golf course. Clint Maxwell and his staff are to be commended on the condition of the course after heavy rain leading up to the tournament. The last time I played Clober was 15 years ago and the improvements were extraordinary, the greens were covered in bent grasses and the presentation was excellent.

The annual Secretaries match will be reported on by John Young that they are now victorious yet again. I played Airdrie GC recently and I was impressed by the course condition Stuart Cameron appears to be doing a great job there and the members I spoke to seemed very happy, great to hear your sheds and clubs course might be changing over the coming years so here’s to a successful transition.

EAST
Two fantastic events to report on this month, firstly, in a blaze of glorious sunshine and almost balmy temperatures, we had our annual cricket match against Wigtownshire, which was won by Wigtownshire by 43 runs. It’s an event which is limited to 90 entrants, so it will be based on first come first served. The closing date for the competition is 31 July. For any more information please contact John Young.

Golf socio facilities – East

Spring meeting at Largs. The scoring was quite impressive as there was a training eagerly breeze blowing and with a pair of 66 but a SSS of 71, Largsydd is never a cakewalk.

Results:

Scratch Douglas McRae, 1st Class Marcus D’Agnolo, 2nd Class Robert Murdoch, Trade Gordon Peethan, Guest John McDougal, Longest Drive Steven McInroy, Nearest pins Bruce Watson and Lindsay Muir. Thanks to Philip Holmes and his team for a course in great condition early in the year, the catering and bar staff and the committee and members for allowing us to use the course.

Thanks also to Tom Forrest for the presentation following the meal and prize giving.

With the eyes of the world on the East Coast of Scotland in July for the AAM Scottish Open at Gullane and the Open Championship, the East Section was very fortunate to be given a “close up and personal” view of the composite Gullane course and their fantastic maintenance facilities.

Thanks to Stewart Duff, Course Manager at Gullane and Paul Hay, Head Greenkeeper on Gullane number 1, for taking the group round the composite course, which looks a bit tatty, and the maintenance facilities.

The Composite course is Gullane number 1 with a couple of modified holes from Gullane number 2 and some alternative teeing areas.

We welcome new and returning members Marcus D’Agnolo, greenkeeper/mechanic at Balfour GC and Douglas McRae, supervisor greenkeeper at Edinburgh Leisure, Silverknowes Course.

We welcome aboard guys and for other new members, scan the results section for new members hand.

Best wishes to Grant Frogley on his new post at Qest, moving back there from the Roxburghe. Also Daryll Burdett moves to moors in his role at Bigga Taylor from his post at Archerfield.

After all the dry sunshine of April, we seem to be back to March weather in may, I write this on 15 May in a frost, and we’ve had more rain in 16 days than the previous two months, but looking around and seeing websites and social media etc the golf courses look in pretty good fettle. Imagine how good it is going to be when you read this, after a few weeks of warm weather and gentle, light rain!

CENTRAL
By the time you read this The Amateur Championship will be in full swing at Carnoustie Golf Links and Panmure Golf Club, whilst the course closure before the Open will be underway at St Andrews.

Welcome to new board member Era van Zyl has been promoted to a supervisor’s position at the Castle Course to replace Greg Easton who is off to Royal Cloque Ports. Era has moved up from within the team. We wish them all the very best in their new roles.

Welcome New Members
Douglas McRae, First Assistant, Edinburgh Leisure

Welcome New International Member
Graham Shearer, Affiliate, Australia.
Around The Green

It was an emotional competition for our chairman Ed Snart as after over 20 years on the section committee he’s decided to step down with Rhys as standing in as chairman until the AGM in September. All the committee and members owe a massive debt of gratitude to Ed and thank him for all his hard work, love and dedication to the section.

Ed said: “Having been roped into going onto the Midland Section committee by Steve Wood back in 1994 I didn’t realise it would lead me into having to spend quite so much time with other committee members. I even had to move job from Walsall to Penin in Wolverhampton in 2000 so I could keep a closer eye on Rhys Thomas at South Stafford!”

“It’s the right time for me to stand down and enjoy the many Section events without the members having to listen to me drone on!”

“It’s been a wonderful experience and it remains a privilege to work within such an outstanding industry. Thank you so much to all that have helped me over the years and even those who have been difficult!”

One special mention, despite me being sarcastic towards him most of the time, Rhys, you have been brilliant to me, thanks.”

A big shout out also to Karl Williams and his team at Redditch Golf Club who had a Northern Ireland open qualifier in May, also to Andy Wood and his team at Robin Hood GC who had the TP Tour Event also in May. Guys – you prove that a great place really exists. If anyone wants a shout out for nothing please contact me on 07748976496 or greens@jordan2004@hotmail.co.uk

South West & South Wales

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

SOUTH WEST

Following the success of our first South West Turfclub our next gathering will be held at Cumberwell Park Golf Club on 9 July. The afternoon will include discussions from Matthew James, Course Manager, and James Edwards, Golf Course Architect on the construction and grow-in of the new par 3 course.

2015 fixtures:
16 June Rigby Taylor Team Challenge at The Players Club
22 July Evan's Golf Management Tournament at Minehead Golf Club
10 September Summer Tournament and National Qualifier at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club
18 November Regional Conference at Somerset County Cricket Club
15 December Christmas Tournament at Marlborough Golf Club

Section members interested in representing the South West in the Rigby Taylor Team Challenge please contact Joe Curtis (green@liegestarting.com). Registration is open for the Evan’s Golf Management Trophy, all entries to Tracey Harvey as soon as possible please, this event is heavily subscribed so do not miss your chance to enter.

South West Section Countywide Knockout draw has been published; please contact Joe Curtis for details if you have not received them (green@liegestarting.com). All of our Section events are open to members of other sections, please feel free to contact us and attend as everyone is welcome.

News

SOUTH COAST

Our first golf tournament of this year was held at Wellow GC on 22 April. The weather was favourable and the course was presented to a fantastically high standard.

Many thanks go out to Simon Justice and his greenkeeping team and to Wellow for providing such a great venue.

Results:
1. Loula Stephenson, Swanmore GC, 37pts.
2. Phil Wood, Army GC, 37 points, 3 Ben Bright, Wellow GC. 36. Nearest the pin Luke Eldridge, Rushmore GC. Longest Drive Phil Woodworth, Army GC. Wooden spoon prize: (specifically donated by Farmura to award ruddy golf!) David Watkins from army GC.

Dave King has left Sherborne Golf Club to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Cricket Club. Tom Smith, Golf Club (formely Wadshelf GC) has been appointed to Sherborne and has been appointed as Head at Halesgrove School, Somerset where he will bring with him seven years’ experience working at Celtic Manor.


It is great to see the section being represented at such events and he has played an integral role in the experience rewarding and a fantastic opportunity for networking.

Thanks to Sponsors

SOUTH WEST

Many thanks to our South West Section 2015 Patron: H Curtis & Sons, Ecclesdown, T H White, Greenissman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countyside and Farmura for their continued and valuable support.

Welcome New Members


Around The Green

Midland

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

Events Coming Up

Mid Anglia

Summer Competition at Wehey Garden City Golf Club on Thursday 23 July, early afternoon.

Hopefully you’ve received the application forms for the Support Team at the British Masters at Woburn in October. This is a fantastic opportunity to be involved in a European Tour Event in our region so don’t delay in getting applications to Roger Butler – Midland Regional Administrator – rigbytaylor.com for a chance to represent the Section at this flagship event.

Midland

Autumn Comp at Kidderminster GC 9 September. Make your own team of 4 players. Non-BIGGA members can play but a maximum of 2 per team and they must be a committee member from your golf club - President, Club Captain, Greens chairman etc. Soup and drinks before golf. Prize pool £26. Two course meal after golf followed by presentation and AGM. £25 per player. To enter contact Karl Williams on 07584916172 coursemanager@redditchgolfclub.com

News

East of England

An excellent day out at Cleethorpes Golf Club for the delayed Autumn Comp at Kidderminster GC 9 September. Make your own 10 man team required, please contact Darryl Jones (d.j.goodchild@msn.com) for more details.

Thanks to Sponsors

Mid Anglia

Avoncrop Amenity, Headland Amenity, Antech Amenity, Farmura, Evrissa, Countrywide, Banks Amenity, ALS, Turfmacs Machinery and Rigby Taylor. The Mid Anglia Section would like to thank their wonderful Sponsors for 2015 and we are very grateful for your continued support.

East of England

Many thanks to Rigby Taylor and Manorfield Sands for sponsoring the golf day and providing some excellent prizes.

Midland

Thanks to Banks Amenity for sponsoring the Spring competition. Also thanks to Farols for supplying the refreshments. Thanks to our May calendar sponsor Andy Wood and his team at Robin Hood GC who had the TP Tour Event also in May. Guys – you prove that a great place really exists. If anyone wants a shout out for nothing please contact me on 07748976496 or greens@jordan2004@hotmail.co.uk

Welcome New Members


South West & South Wales

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

Mid Anglia

Daron Maguire, Secretary – Mid Anglia; Darron Bell, Assistant Secretary – Midlands BIGGA; David Collins, Greenkeeper, Sedgemoor GC; Matt Gilks, Corporate Client Manager, Rigby Taylor; Darren Mugford, Norfolk Section; Tammie Whyte, Devon Section; Ben Styles, East England Section; Tracey Harvey, Headland Amenity.
**South East**

**Events Coming Up**

**ESSEX**
Next golf day is at Boyce Hill GC Tuesday 28th July & Playgolf Colchester Wednesday 22nd November.

**SURREY**
23 June Cresta Cup Puttenham GC
16 Sept Match v Reys Hanley Common GC
6 October Tri Counties Match Windlesham GC
3 November England v Scotland Hankley Common GC
18 November Match v Secretaries The Berkshire GC
4 December Turkey Trot Guildford GC

**SUSSEX**
Summer Competition, Pyecombe Golf Club, July 23.

**News**

**EAST ANGLIA**
Greetings greenkeepers, trust you all survived the winter – if you call it one.

Our first golf day came and went, sadly I missed it but I have it on good authority that you all had a good day at Newmarket and that the course of the day and the clubhouse staff for feeding us so well.

32. Nearest the pin Dominic Rodgers and Craig Campbell. As usual we would like to thank Dominic and his team for the course conditions, the club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and the clubhouse staff for feeding us so well.

**Surrey**

Epsom GC Spring Texas Scramble - thanks to Mark Harvey for doing the usual magic all over the course and ensuring we had a great start to this year’s calendar. Thank you to Epsom GC for courtesy of the course given to the section.

Merrist Wood College has been busy for the first quarter this year with talks from Cameron MacMillan ‘Constructing a modern Heathland’

Gareth Roberts ‘Managing Today’s Heathland’ both seminars attracted well over 50 people who attended Merrist Wood College. Sign up to our Surrey Facebook for details with up and coming events at Merrist Wood College.

Coulsdon Manor GC, set in 140 acres of landscaped parkland, described by Harry S Colt once created and carved his way through this wonderful setting between a collection of rare trees gathered from all over the world by the Byron family. This beautiful course has been the office for Head Greenkeeper Ian Dudley who has retired after 41 years service.

Joe Sexton from the Altonwood Group joins Coulsdon Manor GC as Ian’s replacement.

After more than 17 years at West Surrey GC, Ashley Coulsdon Manor GC, set in 140 acres of landscaped parkland, described by Harry S Colt once created and carved his way through this wonderful setting between a collection of rare trees gathered from all over the world by the Byron family. This beautiful course has been the office for Head Greenkeeper Ian Dudley who has retired after 41 years service.

As always the day was played in good spirit with the emphasis on fun and laughter rather than overly serious golf. Notable funny points of the day were James Briggs’ amazing 3 putt from 18 inches, Pete Smith’s widest ever tee shot on 18, just failed rolling down the hill into Lewes high street and Darren Mitchell’s nearest pin in 2 win on 18th, really? Finally special mention to the champs from Lister Wilders, it’s always a pleasure to see you come and support the rest of the field with your loud boisterous claps!

Lowest score was won by Andrew Norman, nearest pin on 6th was won by Michael Fance, and nearest pin on 12th was won by James Briggs, final and after much deliberation Darren Mitchell was awarded nearest pin in two on the 18th.

Despite rumours that he had already played 300 shots by the 9th hole, Tony Willey claimed 3rd place in division 3 with 32pts, with Kelvin Brown 2nd with 27pts and Rob Wallis in 1st place with 30pts. Division 2 saw Pete Smith finish 3rd with 28pts, Andrew Norman 2nd with 29pts and Pete Ray win with 29pts.

In division 1, the better golfers showed us all how to play the finest assembled again at the glorious setting of Faversham Manor GC as Ian’s replacement.

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The biggest survey which can be easily found on the BIGGA website.

**BENEFITS**

The Spring Competition and National Championships Qualifier at Lewes Golf Club was a great success, section secretary Peter Smith said: “The section’s golf day at Lewes was played in rather typical for Lewes, blustery conditions!”

“Despite a difficult spring, the course and greens in particular, were in great condition, with the wind blowing and the greens firm and fast scoring was going to be difficult.”

“As always the day was played in good spirit with the emphasis on fun and laughter rather than overly serious golf. Notable funny points of the day were James Briggs’ amazing 3 putt from 18 inches, Pete Smith’s widest ever tee shot on 18, just failed rolling down the hill into Lewes high street and Darren Mitchell’s nearest pin in 2 win on 18th, really? Finally special mention to the champs from Lister Wilders, it’s always a pleasure to see you come and support the rest of the field with your loud boisterous claps!”

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The biggest survey which can be easily found on the BIGGA website.

**Welcome New Members**

In recent years we have seen more and more former greenkeeping apprentices achieve a very well earned Degree qualification. Whilst I fully understand that a Degree is not for everybody, we have to appreciate and accept that greenkeeping has become a much more diverse profession from my days as an apprentice.

Some things may not have changed in that many greenkeepers a life on a golf course as they prefer to work outdoors, possibly love golf and there is an apprenticeship available.

What has changed though over the years is the job role beyond golf greenkeeper.

Having recently reviewed the content of the Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship, the list of skills may not have changed, but certainly more knowledge has been added and the graded, end point assessments will add quality to the new Level 2 qualification.

We have now submitted new draft Standards for a First Assistant, Deputy, Head Greenkeeper, Golf Course Manager.

We will now be looking at devising appropriate programmes of education, training and a series of graded end assessments to meet these new Standards and new qualifications.

We have consulted with employers, GTC quality assured Centres/Training Providers, England Golf and of course BIGGA to progress along a career path.

The Government has put much emphasis on the new graded, end point assessments which every new apprenticeship has to have but we believe the programme of education and training is equally important.

We are all familiar with the Level 2, 3 and 4 courses offered either with some off the job day or block release time or the 100% on the job delivery option.

These options we believe will continue to be available giving employers’ choice of which QA Centre/Training Provider best meets their requirements to deliver, jointly, a successful programme for their trainees.

Government funding will be available and this was explained by David Creanor, GTC Trailblazer Chairman, in last month’s GI.

As we now focus on the advanced and higher level Standards we will be looking at the current education and training provision available including the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper and see if these can be aligned to the new Standards.

The likes of the Foundation Degree Science in Sports turf could well feature as a suitable course/qualifications to underpin the Golf Course Manager Standard but all of these discussions are only just starting.

Degree Apprenticeships are under consideration by the Government and the GTC has declared an interest in how they might work within the sector.

Cost will clearly be a huge element of whether there will be sufficient uptake and employers would need to see a benefit to their business to invest funding into an individual’s personal development however students seeking a Degree could possibly access funding through scholarships and/or bursaries currently available through BIGGA and The R&A.

These are certainly exciting times for greenkeeping and with employer representation, BIGGA and the specialist Centres and Training Providers all committed to the reforms the GTC remains confident that there will be options to progress along a career path or for employers to improve their staff development which in turn improves the business.

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We have now submitted new draft Standards for a First Assistant, Deputy, Head Greenkeeper, Golf Course Manager.

We will now be looking at devising appropriate programmes of education, training and a series of graded end assessments to meet these new Standards and new qualifications.

We have consulted with employers, GTC quality assured Centres/Training Providers, England Golf and of course BIGGA to progress along a career path.

The Government has put much emphasis on the new graded, end point assessments which every new apprenticeship has to have but we believe the programme of education and training is equally important.

We are all familiar with the Level 2, 3 and 4 courses offered either with some off the job day or block release time or the 100% on the job delivery option.

These options we believe will continue to be available giving employers’ choice of which QA Centre/Training Provider best meets their requirements to deliver, jointly, a successful programme for their trainees.

Government funding will be available and this was explained by David Creanor, GTC Trailblazer Chairman, in last month’s GI.

As we now focus on the advanced and higher level Standards we will be looking at the current education and training provision available including the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper and see if these can be aligned to the new Standards.

The likes of the Foundation Degree Science in Sports turf could well feature as a suitable course/qualifications to underpin the Golf Course Manager Standard but all of these discussions are only just starting.

Degree Apprenticeships are under consideration by the Government and the GTC has declared an interest in how they might work within the sector.

Cost will clearly be a huge element of whether there will be sufficient uptake and employers would need to see a benefit to their business to invest funding into an individual’s personal development however students seeking a Degree could possibly access funding through scholarships and/or bursaries currently available through BIGGA and The R&A.

These are certainly exciting times for greenkeeping and with employer representation, BIGGA and the specialist Centres and Training Providers all committed to the reforms the GTC remains confident that there will be options to progress along a career path or for employers to improve their staff development which in turn improves the business.
GREENACRES ARTIFICIAL GRASS
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Greencracs, a leading supplier or artificial grass for sports and landscaping, have introduced a new range of Golf Tee Mats in 2015 for golf course construction, winter and driving ranges.

The COURSE MAT range has a thick 6-inch pile surface that replicates a natural tee and still support any standard tee peg. The mats are approx. 12 feet wide and show players to position their ball anywhere across the tee, in order to target the appropriate flag or fairway position. COURSE MAT is also available in roll format without the standard shock-absorbing backing, for use in larger driving range type areas.

The RANGE MAT collection includes new high-quality surfaces for artificial fairway feet with tee and box play in a larger mat size, which gives more freedom to the player and a longer life over traditional range mats.

Also new for 2015 are two new qualities of stock and high quality of customer service. Contact their Sales Office on:

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 monthly circulation reaching over 15,000 people, targeted direct to your industry, you will be guaranteed to find a high calibre of candidates to fill your positions.

The magazine is read by greenkeepers across the UK and the world at a huge variety of facilities, by turf managers of various experience and different roles. It is also delivered to the trade, to educational facilities and many more establishments. Its unrivalled reach across the turf management industry means it is the perfect place to advertise your vacancy...Just contact BIGGA's Sales Team to place your ad.

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For a truly perfect cut there is only one answer: a set of genuine Toro bedknives.

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- Superior quality of cut you expect from Toro

TP0122 Greenkeeper Int CS - Bedknives.indd 15/05/2015 15:23

Greenkeeper/Mechanic

An opportunity has arisen at The Mere to join our greenkeeping team on our championship golf course. This role will be responsible for the day to day maintenance of both the golf course and the machinery. The ideal candidate will possess a level 3 or above in land based technology/ engineering as well as practical greenkeeping experience.

The successful candidate will be required to:
- Knowledge of H&S requirements and service logs
- Knowledge of the maintenance requirements for all machinery including grinding, unit set-up, fabrication, hydraulics and irrigation systems.

Contact Course Manager on 01565 830155 for further details
Apply via email to careers@themereresort.co.uk

Hever Castle Golf Club, Greenkeeper

An opportunity has arisen at Hever Castle Golf Club to recruit a Greenkeeper to join our team. This position is ideally suited to a candidate with some greenkeeping experience, who has the commitment and enthusiasm to progress, at this stage of their career in Golf Course Management.

The candidate should have:
- A minimum of one years experience working full time as a Greenkeeper on a golf course.
- Relevant qualifications to NVQ Level 2 would be desirable but not essential, as a formal training programme will be established.

- The ability to recognise and achieve the high standards of golf course preparation and presentation that are expected at all times.
- A willingness to work with enthusiasm, and learn to improve oneself.

This is a full time position with weekends worked on a rota basis. Candidates must have their own transport and a full driving licence.

Please apply by mail with a full CV and covering letter to: davidwood@dsl.pipex.com
David Wood, Golf Course Manager
www.hever.co.uk

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

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Our favourite tweets this month...

@brownstuff1984 pleasure working with these boys all week on early morning prep @BIGGALtd  Saturday PGA

@gord_mckie @TheKroenkeCast @TheOpen @BIGGALtd nice morning on the links and the tented village is underway with 94 days to go...

@BIGGALtd Awareness Survey email has been sent to all our Greenkeeper Members (with an email address) please complete and help us formulate a strategy

@sandra4bigganor Cleveland Section Irrigation Workshop with @LelyUKTurfcare at @ClevelandGolfClub  @BIGGALtd

@dperdi30 @SarahSkySports thanks for the sports retweet today. Us UK and ire greenkeepers worked hard this week

@avrogreenkeeper First swarm collection of the season at Cheadle Golf Club, plus Wayne's first experience @My_Apprentice @BIGGALtd

@misterdeere Congratulations to @JohnDeereUK IE  @BIGGALtd & @GCSAI15 volunteers and the whole greenkeeping team @TPCSawgrass - awesome course, awesome job

@Tracey_Maddison Great visit to @BernhardGrinder today to discuss @BIGGALtd Delegation to @2016TGC  executing a member opportunities

@downie82 Thanks @TPCSawgrassAGR @BIGGALtd and @JohnDeere for an amazing week @HERMANS

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Full product details at www.toro.com
Put us to the test. For a free onsite demonstration, call Lely on 01480 226800