All eyes on St Andrews

Wildlife at The Home of Golf

Inside...

MEN AT WORK - DOWN UNDER
How volunteering can boost your career

ALSO INSIDE... A MISSION TO MOSCOW: BRORA GOLF CLUB
KING OF THE CASTLE

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As we emerge from winter the announcement of the BIGGA Open Championship Support Team is a timely reminder that the season will soon be upon us.

With the Open returning to its spiritual home of St Andrews this year we, not unexpectedly, received a huge number of applications to be part of the Team and I know that we have fulfilled the brief given to us by the R&A to provide them with a first class greenskeeping core. There is a great balance of first timers and experienced campaigners, something the R&A organising team are particularly keen that we achieve and I am thoroughly looking forward to seeing them in July.

Naturally there will be many applicants who are disappointed – we were oversubscribed by more than three to one – but we are totally committed to providing more and more developmental opportunities for our membership. So, my advice is to persevere and keep putting yourself forward for these events.

With the expansion of the BMW PGA Championship support team, the new TPC Sawgrass initiative sponsored by John Deere alongside our Open Championship activity the opportunity to add top class tournament experience to our Open Championship activity the opportunity to add top class tournament experience to the season will soon be upon us. The opportunity for promotion to the role of Championship support team, the new TPC Sawgrass initiative sponsored by John Deere alongside our Open Championship activity the opportu-

very recently one of the five BIGGA members who were successful in gaining a place on the aforementioned TPC Sawgrass initiative, James Iddidge, unfortunately had to relinquish his spot. The opportunity for promotion to the role of Championship support team, the new TPC Sawgrass initiative sponsored by John Deere alongside our Open Championship activity the opportu-

end of work makes attending the ‘fifth major’ an impossibility. This serves as a reminder that nearly all of us have to make some sacrifices or compromises to achieve the career progression we desire. In James’ case it was a complete ‘no brainer’ and I know he won’t regret it for a second but it is not always so cut and dry. My view, for what it is worth, is that it is always better to make the positive decision than let inertia get in the way but it is a personal choice.

On that subject you could view a commitment to CPD as a sacrifice, it certainly takes effort above and beyond but is undoubtedly a tool to personal and career development.

I was thrilled to discover that we clocked up our 1,000th CPD Active member last month. This is a significant milestone and evidence, if it were needed, of the extraordinary commitment to learning and development that sits at the heart of the greenskeeping profession.

Thank you to all the members who have engaged with CPD, you make our job of promoting your profession so much more straightforward. I look forward to reporting on our 2,000th member in the not too distant future!

Enjoy the read.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO

GREETING CARDS

The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.

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MARCH 2015

FEATURES

13 Chairman’s Word… from 1991
George Malcolm’s first column revisited

22 Wildlife at The Home of Golf
Ecology at St Andrews

28 Men at Work – Down Under
How volunteering can benefit you

32 BIGGA National Championship
Enter our annual tournament

34 Brora Golf Club’s Revolution
Greenkeeping projects in the Highlands

36 Understanding Fertilisers
Making sense of the multitude available

38 Grass Species Selection
Paul Miller’s final article

42 ‘The Sons of Golf’ attack Danish Turf Disease
How Scandinavian greenkeepers deal with diseases

44 Bunker Club
Digging in at Dunstanburgh

46 Barenbrug Wildflower mixes offer benefits at Mortonhall
Aesthetic plans for golf courses

48 Getting even with Wetting Agents
New technology lyenapese analysed

50 A Mission to Moscow
Grow-in at Russia’s newest golf course

REGULARS

3 Welcome from BIGGA
6 Chairman’s Word
8 Newsdesk
16 Industry Update
18 Membership News
20 L&D News
54 Around the Green
61 Greenkeepers Training Committee
62 Buyers’ Guide
64 Recruitment
66 @BIGGALtd

British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

GI_MARCH_15_v2.indd   1
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MARCH 2015
Chairman’s Word

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

A few years ago I remember attending a seminar where the speaker said: “One of the biggest changes in greenkeeping in the last 30 years was the invention of Gore-Tex”. He was probably right. Winter golfers have become more and more demanding and this is linked to the improved winter clothing available. We need to keep adapting and improving to meet the increasing levels of expectation.

There has been a lot of movement in the job market over the last few months, with the BIGGA job board as busy as I can remember. I would like to think this is a sign that the general golfing market is on the up and the future is starting to look brighter. One of my teams, Sam Bethell, is on the move to the other side of Richmond Park to join David Langhorne MG at Wimbledon Park Golf Club. Also, the Midland Region’s National Board member Rob Welford is moving from Cleehepore Golf Club to Waltham Windmill Golf Club. Steve Beverley is moving from Immingham Golf Club to replace him at Cleehepore.

The programme was packed with excellent speakers and it was interesting to hear the issues facing us in the UK are common across Europe. It was a great opportunity to meet with other Associations from Europe and continue our collaborative work with them. Behind the scenes, FEGGA are working with other bodies to promote the need for a common sense approach to pesticide regulations. Although I use minimal pesticides at Richmond, I fully understand the need to have a range of them available to maintain the diverse nature of UK golf courses.

On my return from Portugal I dumped a pile of washing on the floor somewhere near the washing machine. It took me a few hours to realise my wife and kids were away for half term and the washing was not going to do itself. So, I put all my greenkeeping knowledge and problem solving skills to use and managed to get it done! I then headed off to Heathrow for a flight to Texas for the GCSAA’s Golf Industry Show. Read more on this in next month’s issue.

February saw excellent Regional Conferences in the Midlands and Scotland. Well done to all those involved in organising, speaking and attending these events. Last month also saw us reach the landmark of 1,000 members on the new CPD scheme – fantastic news, and I would encourage all members to engage with this.

Back home, prolonged periods of cold frosty weather have left the course looking like an arctic tundra. You can’t beat nature - it will do what it wants when it wants! The key is to have the course in the best possible condition heading into winter.

It’s great to see Rob and Steve (who both had the misfortune to be my deputies in the past) moving their careers forward. I wish these three and all other members taking up new posts all the very best for the future.

The recent explosion in social media has allowed many of our members to use it as a networking tool.

My favourite recent post mentioned leaving a copy of GI in the clubhouse for all the members to read. My first thought was “why?” But after thinking about it, it’s a great idea. It’s a way of compensating with the golfing public about what we do and why we do it. It also helps demonstrate what a professional industry we have become and may dispel some of the image problems that still blight greenkeeping.

They say you can’t teach an old dog new tricks, but this old dog has learnt this one and is going to use it every month. I would urge others to try it - then spread the positive news and feedback you receive.

A prize will be awarded for the best #takeleswithyou of the year

Finally, a new social media craze is sweeping the world of greenkeeping. Started by Sam Evans from Oakland Park Golf Club, takeleswithyou involves members taking a picture of page 7 of last month’s GI (shown left, held by Ben Kehlhyr) in an interesting place, then posting it on Facebook or Twitter.

A prize will be awarded for the best one of the year, so you can take me on holiday, to work... or anywhere!

Let’s hope spring comes along this year without any nasty weather-related surprises.

Les

Contact details

Les Howkins MG
les.howkins@bigga.co.uk

Funding your future

The funding and assistance provided by BIGGA Partners and BIGGA Education Supporters underpins the Association’s considerable investment in Continuing Professional Development and all our educational activity. They are investing in the future of BIGGA members, we are hugely grateful and urge you to show them your support.

Individual Contributors: Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG, CGCS, W J Rogers, Espen Bergmann, Nick Gray, Steve Davis, Richard McGlynn, Douglas Duguid, Jaye Goodchild, Michael Beaton, David Barron, Greg Evans, Phil Newberry.
40 YEARS FOR KEITH

Congratulations to Keith Kellow who has celebrated a hugely impressive 40 years of service at Falmouth Golf Club.

Keith began as an Assistant Greenkeeper at the stunning Cornish course when they only had one other greenkeeper in 1975. He became a BIGGA member in 1987 and has retained his membership ever since. He's worked under three different club captains during his long service, including Barry Clark, who was the former Section Patron.

Keith began his career at Marlborough GC, but the course was sold and Keith moved on to Falmouth. He is currently involved in building several new holes.

Current Head Greenkeeper Simon Johnson commented that: “Keith is an excellent member of the team, his knowledge of the course is second to none and is vital to the running of the place.” He has taken two days off sick in 40 years.

Falmouth Club Captain Barry Lawrence presented Keith with an impressive 40 years service plaque and is pictured here with Keith and Simon Johnson.

Keith's outstanding service has been rewarded by his wife Marilyn and friends and family who toasted him during a special dinner at the club. Keith was also presented with an impressive 40 years service plaque.

The team at Falmouth Golf Club are second to none when it comes to looking after bunkers and keeping the course in top condition.

Simon Johnson commented that: “Keith has a wealth of experience and a great eye for detail!”

Keith was also presented with a voucher worth £500, which he has used to purchase a GreenMech machine.

South West Section Turf Club

The inaugural session of the South West Section Turf Club will be held at Thornbury Golf Club on 18 March from 1pm – 3.30pm and It’s free for BIGGA members!

The club will be looking at bunkers and how to improve their construction and maintenance. The day will be spent both on the course and indoors and will focus on auditing bunkers for performance, annual maintenance costs, drainage, lining systems, making a case to change them, and being proud of them!

This is a great opportunity to meet other members of the South West Section. Non-members can attend for £10, and meeting members are free of charge thanks to our Section Patrons.

Non-members can register via shortsessions@bigga.co.uk or call 07818 410333 or matt.plested@hotmail.co.uk.

We have a GREAT LINE UP OF CHIPPERS FOR GOLF COURSES

Pedestrian | Road Towed | Tracked | Tractor Mounted

Golf Course woodland management has many facets, but within the GreenMech range there will be a model to suit all having the revolutionary Disc-Blade chipping system to provide up to 150 hours of chipping before re-sharpening.

Just one of the many features that make a British made GreenMech machine unique.

WE HAVE A GREAT LINE UP OF CHIPPERS FOR GOLF COURSES

Short Sessions

BIGGA’s London Section have been running a series of educational seminars which are becoming increasingly popular – and they’re bringing London based BIGGA members to get involved!

This idea is to engage local greenkeepers in all aspects of turf and topical subjects, with seminars down load by greenkeepers and members of the trade. On one occasion, BIGGA’s Head of Learning Simon Green gave a presentation on CPD and its benefits.

Named ‘Short Sessions’, the Section is hoping the sessions will go from strength to strength.

The first Short Session is at Muswell Hill Golf Club on 18 March at 9pm. This will feature a demonstration of the Dryject system and the new rope drainage system, and all will be delivered by none other than Billy McMillan.

AD: What would you like to achieve in your time as Secretary?

DW: My goal would be to see every greenkeeper become a member of the Association.

AD: Do you have any tournament experience?

DW: I've been fortunate enough to be part of many tournaments, amateur and professional.

We've co-hosted the Amateur Championship with Royal Troon, four final Open Championship qualifiers, held the Sunderland Masters over three consecutive years, the British Seniors, the Ladies Home International and the BIGGA National Championship.

Upcoming events include the Scottish Youth Championship and the Ladies Open qualifier.

AD: Do you play golf or participate in any other sports?

DW: Yes, I enjoy golf and have a handicap of six. One of my proudest moments as a BIGGA Member during was playing in the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta in 1998. I also enjoy playing in Hickory golf events.

Thank you Derek for sharing some of your great memories and funniest experiences of your fantastic career – I just wish they could all be printed! And, if anyone can guess which course Derek is pictured at, then I’m sure he’ll stand you a pint at BTME 2016!
We're pleased to announce that the entire greenkeeping team at Tyneside Golf Club have rejoined BIGGA.

The five-strong team at the parkland course in Ryton, Tyne & Wear are now full members of the Association again.

Course Manager David Simpson said: "The club used to pay for the memberships, stopped a few years ago but we're now managed to convince them the sheer value of the greenkeepers being members of such a professional organisation."

The club have recently run a bunker camp and chainsaw training courses.

The five from left to right are Steven Richardson, Greg Lee, Michael Gunn, David Simpson and Jeff Callen.

TYNESIDE TEAM REJOIN BIGGA

NORTH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS CRACK CHESTNUT BLIGHT

Sweet chestnut blight caused by the fungus Cryptonectria parasitica was first found in the UK in late November 2011 in trees from sourced from a nursery and planted in Warwickshire and Sussex. The jury is still out on whether the pathogen has escaped into the wider environment.

The same fungal pathogen arrived in the United States over one hundred years ago from Asia on imported Japanese chestnut trees (Castanea crenata). It subsequently went to destroy 4 billion native North American chestnut trees (Castanea dentata) from Maine to Florida, but US scientists have been working to develop resistance-enhancing gene to help researchers be sure that the resistance-enhancing gene is present.

Next step was the submission of a detailed application to the US federal agencies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which will carry out a rigorous review process. They must now approve the GM American chestnut trees before they become available to the public for planting. The process should take around five years.

This is the first time the approval process will have been used for a tree that is ultimately destined to be planted in the wild. The process has been applied to many crops, orchard and plantation trees, but not to species that are native to U.S. forests. In the meantime Powell and Mabbett will carry out a rigorous review process. They must now approve the GM American chestnut trees as possible, perhaps 10,000, as they are ready for planting. The approval process is complete.

Sweet chestnut coppice is widespread in East Sussex and Kent where it provided timber for fencing and woodchips for energy as well as a biodiversity rich ecosystem. In this latter respect sweet chestnut coppice is an important feature of many golf courses in both East Sussex and Kent.

Dr Terry Mabbett
Here are the BIGGA members who will be joining the home greenkeeping team for the 144th Open Championship at St Andrews in July.

The R&A have again asked BIGGA to supply a support team of greenkeepers and they will kindly be providing accommodation, food, refreshments and uniforms.

Arriving at The Home of Golf on Sunday 12 July, the team will be required to rake for the players during the tournament itself, and may also be needed to help with early morning preparation work and evening divot duties until the Claret Jug is lifted on Sunday 19 July.

The team is a combination of dozens of new faces together with more experienced team members. One of many joining the team for the first time is Joe Curtis, Course Manager at Gloucester Golf Club.

He said: “I’ve applied a few times and I’m over the moon to be selected this year, I would have been happy to get on the team any year but the fact it’s at St Andrews makes it extra special.

“I’ve always wanted to join the team at one of the best courses in the world and I’m really excited to be given this opportunity. I’m keen to see how everything is managed during a tournament of this magnitude, I was a greenkeeper at Celtic Manor for a few Welsh Opens and it will be interesting to compare and contrast.

“Thank you to everyone who applied to be part of this year’s team.

Further to the obituary last month, here is a full reprint of George Malcolm’s first column as Chairman from June 1991. Many of his comments are still relevant today...

| Tony Bartham - Greenkeeper, The Richmond GC | Billy Moir - Head Greenkeeper, Beacon Park GC |
| Robert Barrington - First Assistant Greenkeeper, Inglewood GC | Kevin Monk - Head Greenkeeper, Whinwood GC |
| Sam Bell - Greenkeeper, Wembledon Park GC | Darren Moms - Course Manager, Saltwood GC |
| Ben Boulter - Senior Greenkeeper, Moordale Park GC | Ronnie Miles - Course Manager, Buchanan Castle GC |
| Nigel Broadshead - Course Manager, John O’Gaunt GC | Andrew Nastphi - Assistant Greenkeeper, Wooding GC |
| Alex Brougham - Assistant Greenkeeper, Thorngate GC | Ian Nicholas - Greenkeeper, Oxhill GC |
| Joe Bulbun - Greenkeeper, Metham GC | Edward Panizzi - Assistant Greenkeeper, Ministerham GC |
| Nigel Cleary - Course Manager, Bottig Park GC | Kaya Indman - International Greenkeeper, Pinhoald Resort (USA) |
| Sean Cunningham - First Assistant Greenkeeper, Mytton GC | Matthew Pratt - Assistant Head Greenkeeper, Gorton GC |
| Jack Curtis - Course Manager, Gloucester GC | David Reck - International Greenkeeper, Golofitha Springs (South Africa) |
| Luke Eige - Assistant Greenkeeper, Rushmore GC | Phil Rossett - Deputy Head Greenkeeper, John O’Gaunt GC |
| Sam Bexfield - Deputy Course Manager, Rothesay Park GC | Roch Hamilton - Head Greenkeeper, Grange-over-Sands GC |
| Staur Ferguson - Course Manager, Duncans Park GC | George Sandy - Greenkeeper, Prestbury GC |
| Jamie Hargreave - Course Manager, Boxed In Golf & Country Club | Wayne Sewell - Head Greenkeeper, Westclinton GC |
| Paul Griffiths - First Assistant Greenkeeper, Sandford GC | Tom Smith - Assistant Course Manager, Woxham Park GC |
| John Gubb - Course Manager, Bodminshire GC | Karl Smith - Head Greenkeeper, Longroyd Park GC |
| Thomas Hare - Greenkeeper, Malvern GC | Sam Sullivan-Doss - International Greenkeeper, The Bunkers Golf Courses (USA) |
| Richard Hoad - Head Greenkeeper, Shapley Springs Castle GC | Christopher Taylor - Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Witley Park GC |
| Mart Innes - Head Greenkeeper, Dunston Castle GC | Simon Torr - First Assistant Greenkeeper, Bearwood Lakes GC |
| Graham Ives - Head Greenkeeper, Lough GC | Sam Turriff - Head Greenkeeper, Forest Hill Golf & Country Club |
| Patrick Jackson - Greenkeeper, Penwith GC | Daniel Malcolm - Greenkeeper, Middlesbrough Municipal GC |
| Anthony McCall - Head Greenkeeper, Richmond (Yorks) GC | Tim Wright - Assistant Greenkeeper, Long Ashton GC |

Openness is the name of the game.

In October of 1991 I was asked if I would consider becoming Chairman of the Association, being so as the next step favored in my career mainstream in view of my position of office on the Board and with the logic of choosing a new chairman from the North, two years coming from the South. This is an almost unique occasion in golfing which presents the election of any, three chairman from one particular region and avoids any feeling that an engine is being neglected in any way. In that sense, I suppose I’m serving a double role in this role and work in the North but I have a few, or both chairs should be well-occupied.

Asked by Pat to be also chairman, I am now slow to answer, not many questions on a position role but I was able to do some further reading. Thank you, I’ve had the while beneficial support of them all and they should be more or less as competitive and methodical. Before start up competitively agreeing with a positive 18th 19th and many questions. For example, I needed a rough idea of just how much work is being done.

The most end at an all on course, and I was already prepared to give up any proper position during the intensive next year, nothing that most of the board members are fully aware of the willingness of the Association. I’m also lucky in having my wife Marjorie as a senior support.

The other thing I really want to do in 1990 is ensure that these quasi-zones which often happen in its place like little boxes and cross the get an equal sitting after meetings. If a person is serving without any new, and I will not face the board with the same whispered comment, they have no time for that comment. I’m still for putting my cards on the table.

With Germany and in the past we are not part of any sense of terror – rather the opposite – and a sense of Germany will be the Germans.

With the different circumstances mentioned, the previous conference – which brought something of a drastic form in 1990 – now considered, and with Germany in the situation of hospitality – and in the context of the political sentiments of the Association, I reasonably hope that we will see in it which we can make great progress. It’s a time that they know if they want to do it properly.

The title of the role is not set through any environmental stress. It is a role that will be set and the role of it to be set.

I’m keen to do it and to see if it is a role that will be set.

New plans are set through any environmental stress. It is a role that will be set and the role of it to be set.

Openness is the name of the game.

You have asked me what I would like for the Association in the future, and I can answer without hesitation. Nothing other than time, I want to see some every greenkeeper in Britain and likewise join this wonderful Association and have in our future. How to get close to this as a master that I can see us, but I believe that as a tool of respect for the magazine has a major role in play. It is the only continuous phenomenon of many of our members based in the Association, especially those who are more unknown. There not to join in many missing activities, and I would like members everywhere to offer the hand of fellowship to his neighboring stage with a step of Greenkeeper International – and an invitation to join. This is a challenge which I’d like to see a little of a BIGGA greenkeeper visiting another course, where he knows the greenkeeper is not a member of a social group.

Further to the obituary last month, here is a full reprint of George Malcolm’s first column as Chairman from June 1991. Many of his comments are still relevant today...
Take a shot at the Majors with Luke Donald and Network90.com for your chance to win £50,000

Network90.com, a private networking site co-founded with former World Number One Golfer Luke Donald, is giving anyone currently working in the golf industry the opportunity to win £50,000 as part of its launch this month.

New members to the site can win the £50,000 by registering their profile at www.network90.com, using the VIP code N90G1 for immediate access, before the start of the Masters on April 9th by simply correctly picking the winners of each Major in 2015.

Golf en Network90.com launches on the back of incredible success in the world of football. Fully endorsed and with: FIFA presidential candidate, Luis Figo, as one of its Founding Partners, Network90 has helped facilitate over €100m worth of transfers and jobs in Football since it launched.

Network90 - Golf, which is dedicated and only available to the golf industry, is open to all Greenkeepers, PGA Members, Club Staff, Tour Personnel, Association Officials, Media, Industry Figures and Business persons connected to the global golf business, giving members the ultimate platform to expand their business within their industry.

Once registered, you’ll be able to take advantage of a host of features that only those who have joined will benefit from including exclusive business opportunities, the biggest jobs market in Golf and all the latest industry news so you can stay up to date with news as it breaks.

Packaged with bespoke features and tools, Network90.com is backed by former World Number One Luke Donald, who said: “Network90 - Golf is incredibly exciting for the Golf industry, anyone looking to develop their career in golf at whatever level should take advantage of what the site has to offer.

“In the modern era, it’s crucial that as an industry, golf keeps up with the rest of the world of sport so that it can grow and I’m delighted that the sport now has a platform like this that allows people to connect so easily.”

Graham Macnair, Founder of Network90.com, said: “We’re very excited by the potential that Network90.com offers the golf industry and are delighted to have had a player of Luke Donald’s stature come on board and assist in the sites development. As a former World Number One, it gives us great confidence to know that if we weren’t offering something of real value to the industry, he wouldn’t be involved so heavily.

“What we’ve recently seen in the golf industry is that clubs are restructuring and opportunities that may not have existed previously are now starting to open up. In today’s industry, everyone has the potential to develop their careers and their business through efficient networking. We’ve already seen what a powerful business tool Network90.com has proved to be in football, having helped facilitate in excess of €100m of transfer fees and jobs, and we think Golf as a whole will really benefit from a private online networking environment, and with a £50,000 prize up for grabs, there’s no better time to join.”

To join the exclusive Network90.com club and to enter the £50,000 prize promotion, please visit www.network90.com.

Enter Now to win the £50,000

Anyone who joins using the VIP code N90G1 before April 9th will be eligible to enter the cash promotion. On registering with the site, Network90 will ask you to make three of your industry contacts to join via email. Once this is complete you’ll be directed to the competition and presented with a table of players taking part ahead of the season’s Majors, if you successfully select each of the Major winners you’ll win £50,000.

*Terms and Conditions apply, to view please visit www.Network90.com

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

Indigrow has developed a unique range of concentrated products designed to help turf managers save money, time and packaging disposal. All of the range is packaged in disposable sachets with the complete range at 2-4 sachets per hectare. This saves precious resources from point of manufacture all the way through to final application. Recent advances in both product and packaging techniques have allowed this innovation. The removal of the water constituent whilst retaining efficacy has been our major concern in manufacture. The water added in the spray tank takes its place.

Tank mixing products can be of great benefit to the turf manager, and the time and cost savings on labour and fuel are just the start. The reduction in spraying activities on greens especially will reduce compaction therefore be used as part of an organic feeding programme. Seaweed has been used for centuries in turf grass nutrition for its known benefits. It naturally contains plant growth stimulant and soil conditioner in the form of a pure seaweed, fully soluble powder. It is manufactured from Ascophyllum nodosum seaweed using gentle spray drying technology to avoid excessive thermal degradation. It has been certified as 100% organic, and can therefore be used as part of an organic feeding programme. Seaweed has been used for centuries in turf grass nutrition for its known benefits. It naturally contains plant growth hormones, trace elements, vitamins and amino acids.

Compass Bio-Active OneShot is a plant stimulant and soil conditioner in the form of a pure seaweed, fully soluble powder. It is manufactured from Ascophyllum nodosum seaweed using gentle spray drying technology to avoid excessive thermal degradation. It has been certified as 100% organic, and can therefore be used as part of an organic feeding programme. Seaweed has been used for centuries in turf grass nutrition for its known benefits. It naturally contains plant growth hormones, trace elements, vitamins and amino acids.

Turbine Reaction is a biostimulant and stress relieving agent containing 16% of plant available free L-amino acids, which, when applied to plants suffering from environmental stress can help improve turf health and quality. Turbine Reaction One Shots help turf recover from drought, frost, fungal diseases and pest attack and are rapidly metabolised by the plant.

Magnum One Shot is a highly concentrated penetrating wetting agent designed to give economical yet superior turf wetting and water penetration on hydrophobic soils. It can be used to aid the spread and penetration of foliar fertilisers and certain chemicals such as carbendazim in the soil.

NEW AT RT

Jim Cassidy has been appointed as area Fine Turf technical sales representative in the Rugby Taylor’s Midland region.

Jim has worked in the greenskeeping industry for the past 38 years on a range course including Ashridge and Harlesley Common with spells in Germany and Portugal. His most recent position has been as Regional Course Manager, responsible for seven courses around Birmingham.

HEADLAND EXPAND

Headland Amenity have expanded their sales capacity in the North of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland with the appointment of Dave Howells as Technical Sales Manager.

Dave’s experience has taken in greenkeeping at golf clubs around Europe as well as sales. He is no stranger to Headland, and their unique products, as he previously worked for the company for 10 years before embarking on other projects.

As Technical Sales Manager, Dave’s main responsibility will be to support both existing and new customers.

NEW AT COUNTRYWIDE

Countrywide is delighted to announce the addition of two Regional Technical Sales Managers, Geoff Fenn and Neil Rogers, to its experienced Turf & Amenity team.

Geoff Fenn, former Course Manager at Bedford and County Golf Club above right, now takes responsibility for the Midlands, East Midlands and Warwickshire whilst Neil Rogers, former Course Manager for Windwhistle Golf Club will be supporting customers based throughout the Devon and Cornwall area.

“We are delighted to welcome two such experienced individuals as Geoff and Neil to our team,” said Sam Howesboro, Countrywide’s UK National Business Manager. “Our growing, diverse customer base of Sports turf managers and professional contractors now operate 365 days a year, so our challenge is to help customers create healthy turf that lasts all year round, in the most sustainable way. Between them Geoff and Neil have nearly 25 years of practical industry experience, so they are ideally placed to understand these challenges and offer the technical and practical support that our customers require.”

Neil, an affiliate member of BIGGA, is already planning the year ahead with customers in Devon and Cornwall.
**BIGGA Benefits in the Members Area of the BIGGA website.**

To take advantage of this member benefit, click on the Xtra logo. Sam Bethell, who has recently joined Wimbledon Park Golf Club, is just one member to take advantage of the BIGGA Xtra Benefits scheme. More information can be found in the Members’ Area of the BIGGA website.

**How to save cash with XTRA benefits**

Siam Bethell, who has recently joined Wimbledon Park Golf Club, is just one member to take advantage of the BIGGA Xtra Benefits to save cash for a family day out!

Sam (above at BTME 2015) said: “I’ve only recently looked into the Xtra Benefits, but I’m really grateful. We were looking to take our girls to the London Aquarium for my daughter’s 2nd birthday and it would have cost £63, but we used the discount code and saved £23!”

**UPDATE YOUR EMAILS**

One of the most regular requests from correspondents in the Around the Green section of GI is update your emails – and it’s something that is crucial for you to get the most from your BIGGA membership.

If the team at BIGGA House do not have your correct, up to date email you could be missing out on all sorts of communications from BIGGA and your Region and/or Section. So, if you’ve recently changed your email address, or you’re just unsure if BIGGA House have the right address for you, just call BIGGA House where any member of the team will be happy to change it for you.

This will ensure you do not miss out on any offers, news, events, educational opportunities, competitions or announcements from the Association.
FTMI DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

The successful delegates for the Future Turf Managers Initiative 2015 made possible by Jacobsen have been announced.

Competition for the 20 places was fierce with a total of 76 applications received. The judging panel from Jacobsen and BIGGA had the difficult task of selecting the final 20, and the FTMI 2015 will take place at Ransomes Jacobsen’s HQ in Ipswich from 24-26 March.

The final 20 will be working with professional trainers, Jacobsen and BIGGA staff and their fellow greenkeepers. They will also work closely with five greenkeepers mentors. The expectation is that they will leave the FTMI with a clear understanding of their future career path and goals and a realistic overview of the expectations that come with the role of Manager.

Sessions include ‘Becoming a Leader’, ‘Interview Techniques and Writing a CV’, ‘Effective Communication Strategies’ and ‘Building a Budget’ — many of the skills required at managerial level.

The group will also get the opportunity to enjoy a tour of thesite.

“I’m flying into Gatwick, then will be travelling to Ipswich from La Moye Golf Club in Jersey. Because I’m over in Jersey it’s sometimes difficult to attend BIGGA events, so this is the perfect chance to network, learn from the other guys, ask questions and develop my education.”

“Building a Budget” — many of the skills required at managerial level.

“I’m looking forward to the session discussing interview techniques and CVs as I think that will really help me in the future.

“Above all, I can’t wait to meet other greenkeepers from across the UK. Because I’m over in Jersey it’s sometimes difficult to attend BIGGA events, so this is the perfect chance to network, learn from the other guys, ask questions and develop my education.”

“I’m flying into Gatwick, then hiring a car for the drive to Ipswich — I can’t wait!”

For the full list of delegates please check the BIGGA website.

NEW CPD MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following members who have been awarded CPD:

Andrew Luing - Cauder Luce Golf Club
Michael Ellis - The Point at Painsheath
Sean Sullivan COGC - The Bletchwood Golf Course
Simon Eaton - BWT (Bournemouth)
Joseph Dorner - West Sussex Golf Club
Michael Labens - Lingdale Golf Club
Andrew Ott - Drumoole Golf Club
John Watson - Duffield Golf Club
Sam Voss - Forester Hill Golf & Country Club
Andrew Noon - Heasman Golf Club
Gerry Bruen - Williamwood Golf Club
Joe Bruton - Muthill Golf Club
Andrew Noon - Heasman Golf Club
David Cooper - Ladybank Golf Club
Stuart Cressen - Golfpark Bellahouston
Sam Bettles - Wimbledon Park Golf Club
Eir- Johan van Zyl - St Andrews Links Trust
Jaine Acton - Bushmores Golf Club
Wesley Lomahan - Eding Golf Club
Richard Johnston - Nairn Dunbar Golf Club
Andrew Weeks - Holley Golf Club
Paul Armour - St Andrews Links Trust
Martin Turner - St Andrews Links Trust
Lee Brady - Mussel Hill Golf Club

Approved & Milestone Achieved

Laurence Pitch MG - Turfmaster One Ltd

Approved TWICE & Milestone Achieved!

Lee Stuart MG - Oxhill Developments (Aberdeen)
Wildlife at The Home of Golf

BIGGA Member James Hutchinson recently took up the position of Environmental Officer at St Andrews. Here he outlines the diverse wildlife on the site – from wild orchids to kestrels.

The Home of Golf is an extraordinary place - not just for the obvious reasons - but for the vast amount of wildlife diversity on offer.

Take the lesser known Strath-tyrum Course.

Most of this particular gem is built on reclaimed farmland and as a result is liberated by interesting grasses, wildflowers, trees and all sorts of wonderful wildlife. Or, the charming but demanding Jubilee Course with its sand dominated horizons and tall dune systems.

There’s also the small matter of the world famous Old Course and the Swilcan Burn which houses birds such as northern wheatears, grey wagtails and a kingfisher! Which- ever wildlife you take an interest in then the chances are that they can be found on or around one of the seven golf courses.

It would be a very long process to tell you about all the wildlife, ecology, conservation and environmental practices we have on the go, so I’ve chosen a few snippets.

Castle Course

You could argue that the Castle’s wetland habitat has been a resounding success since the course opened in 2008 and as such the team were nominated for Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year in the STRI Awards.

The wetland habitat includes a pond, a couple of lowland marshes, numerous attractive small bridges and a diverse collection of aquatic plants which are a welcome attrac- tion to the UK’s water residing crit- ters including moorhens and the elusive water rail.

The course is not only home to an interesting aquatic project but is also a place where northern marsh orchid and plate cup lichens grow in abundance – both rare features to see in bloom. There have also been 38 different species of bird noted from September to November.

There are three deer and literally hundreds of mice and shrews. We’ve erected a kestrel box at the far end of the course in the hope of attracting a family to the banquet which is on offer!

The Eden and Strath-tyrum’s Operation Pollinator areas:

Wild carrot, birds foot trefid, yellow rattle, ribwort plantain, flax vetch, rough hawkweed, white clover, barebell, restharrow, self- heal, sea-buckthorn, common sorrel, sweet vernal grass, false-out grass and upright bent can all be found growing on one of the 3000m² operation pollinator areas and I can tell you that the bees, hoverflies and butterflies are really grateful for such a proactive project.

The team are now in the pro- cess of cutting, removing and verticutting a huge portion of their operation pollinator project thus ensuring next year’s growth is as successful as the previous year’s growth. There are two owl boxes and a selection of smaller nest boxes on the Strath-tyrum too, and in November a peregrine falcon was sighted alongside the resident kestrel.

The Balgove

The Balgove is small but not without its eco credentials. The 3rd green heads straight towards the Old Tom Morris building which has an eco-friendly sedum roof and the aim is to grow the 3rd green with patches of course and fine grasses which grow at different rates. So, the plan was to incorporate heather from seed for both ecological and visual purposes.

The seed is locally sourced, in fact you probably couldn’t get any more local as it was harvested from the Eden Course which is a stone’s throw away! The Balgove is also home to one of our barrierless seed trial plots which looks at ways of minimising water and fertilizer usage within new grass species.

Old Course Heather and Fungi

During November we undertook a two hour forage on the Old with our resident expert and uncovered a variety of fungi including suède bolete, scaly wood, witch’s hat and many others.

The fungi seem to be far more plentiful on the Old Course for one very simple reason: it is actually an old course! It’s been in its location for a very long time and as such has built up a good amount of mychorital relationships within the fungi and the vegetation which resides there.

These symbiotic relationships can often take years to develop and as a result need little or no disturbance to flourish.

This results in a vast and diverse array of fruits throughout the autumnal months – many of which are edible but I really would avoid identifying these varieties to the experts.

The heather on the Old has taken a bashing due to the amount of play (heather will not tolerate too much trampling and including caddies there are over 60,000 rounds annually). This is not the only factor affecting this attractive plant - the heather beetle has been eating its way through patches of our heather too.

We are tackling this issue by removing as much heather and moss from beneath the affected heather therefore removing as much of the beetle overwintering larvae as possible. We do this by hand rather than spraying pesticides as this is not good, environmental practice, and we would run the risk of damaging the population of any other invertebrates which makes our heather their home.

However, our heather seed harvesting from healthy plants has proven to be quite successful of late with a great number of growers- ers helping out with seed collection.

We are incorporating them into the mix of our play areas, thus assist- ing the UK’s declining bee species in their plight for survival. Ground nesting birds including the grey partridge, skylark and lapwing (all of which are regulars to the courses and are all on the RSPB’s Red List Species) will use heather as a nest site.
New and Jubilee Courses
Sand martins are noted to be in decline as their wintering grounds often succumb to severe drought conditions. This has a knock on effect on the martins on the East coast of Scotland, so we are undertaking one or two nest reinstating areas on the New and Jubilee courses to assist in helping these fantastic birds.

I say ‘reinstating’ as I recently discovered that martins used to use the sand faces of low lying blow outs prior to them growing over with gorse. We recently exposed the aforementioned areas to bare sand and incorporated old drainage pipes cut to 25cm to attract them.

On the Jubilee Course is the Links Trust’s main organic recycling station which houses a selection of windrow composting lines. We produce tons of useable material per year which is subsequently given away to the local community’s farms and households. This is impressive, but the part I find most interesting is the sheer amount of birdlife present at the station.

Goldfinches, buntings, house sparrows, sparrowhawks and kestrels can be found, and there have been numerous sightings of a great grey shrike. At the end of the Jubilee are a family of sea eagles which were once extinct in Scotland; they were reintroduced in 2007 and according to Fife’s Countryside Ranger seem to be settling in and have recently raised a juvenile.

The St Andrews Links Trust works closely with the environmental governing bodies in the area including Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Marine Scotland and the Local Nature Reserves.

An excellent example of this teamwork can be found on West Sands (where they filmed the opening scenes of Chariots of Fire and also part of the Rowan Atkinson sketch at the opening of the London Olympics). Occasionally, the high tide and easterly winds drive the sea into the dunes creating what we call blowouts which is what happens when the sea retreats taking the sand dune with it. When this is the case, we offer a team of greenkeepers, tractors, trailers and digging equipment to move tons of sand from the beach to the mobile dune system which surrounds the town and the golf courses. This is done under license from Marine Scotland and in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage.

The dunes are fenced off to help trap windblown sand and also to protect them from erosion by humans. The Countryside Ranger assisted by volunteers subsequently plants the newly created dunes with marram grass to further stabilise the area – a huge amount of work. Is it worth it? Well, the dunes are home to the increasingly rare snow bunting – so the answer is yes.

There’s much more going on including the flock of Hebridean sheep which mow the fenced off area to the North Sea side of the Jubilee Course thus reducing fossil fuel costs for the Fife Council and consequently creating an ideal habitat for the highly vocal skylark. There’s the bird feeding station which regularly attracts a diverse bunch of feathered beauties to the nuts on offer.

So, whichever wildlife you take an interest in then the chances are that they can be found on or around one of the seven golf courses here at St Andrews!

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Greenkeeping gives us a fantastic opportunity to work abroad, as well as the chance to work at prestigious UK courses through summer casual positions. I will be spending this summer working at Walton Heath.

Countless tournaments take place where volunteers are welcome, and I’ve met many greenkeepers that are making the most of this opportunity, hopefully this article will encourage a few more.

Gaining experience and knowledge from various greenkeepers at a range of facilities — and having fun along the way — can surely only benefit you in the long run.

Getting Qualified

So where do we start? For me, it was a wasted year at golf college before I realised I wasn’t even going to get in my scratch team let alone make a living from playing golf. I had done a week’s work experience greenkeeping while at school, so I knew it was something that interested me.

I was fortunate to land an apprenticeship at Coombe Hill Golf Club, and I really learned my trade there. High standards were drilled into me from the start and an approachable boss meant you could truly feel fully involved in course improvements.

I did both my Level 2 and 3 whilst at the club, studying at Merrist Wood College. My college project was to play a part in building a new bunker. I was fortunate enough to be trained up on most machinery, and work at a course where the right practice was done as opposed to the cheapest.

The Golden Bear

Maybe it was the influence of several Australian guys at Coombe Hill, but I was very keen to further my greenkeeping experience down under.

I came across an advert on the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association (AGCSA) website — the Australian Golf Club in Sydney were reconstructing the course and greenkeepers were required.

The chance to work with warm-season grasses, in 40°C heat on a championship course, was a new and really enjoyable experience. Setting up the course for the greatest ever player — Jack Nicklaus — was special and I spent five months there.

For more on my time there take a look at my interview with the club’s Course Superintendent Phil Beal.

Wimbledon, Wentworth and Walton Heath

I’ve always wanted to work at Wimbledon, so when the opportunity arrived last summer I was the most excited I have ever been for a job. I finely tuned my hand cutting and attention to detail, and the Wimbledon Championships fortnight was amazing. I learned the most during renovations, which start the week after the Championships. The use of the Koro, pedestrian scarifiers as well as top dressing and seeding means each court gets a new coverage of grass each year. This work plays a big part in creating a world-class surface.

They take on temporary staff every season many of which have golf experience, so it’s a great opportunity to broaden your knowledge.

Men at work - down under

Greenkeeper Chris Allen has thrown himself into volunteering at various events including the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the BMW PGA Championship with BIGGA. Here he urges other greenkeepers to increase their professional and personal experience by volunteering and working overseas and speaks to the British greenkeeper who played a huge part in the success of the Australian Open 2014.
Volunteer - to boost your career!

Volunteering is an integral part of many industries, and is actually surprisingly commonplace given that nearly all of us need to earn money to support ourselves. Examples include unpaid interns, unpaid emergency workers and unpaid charity workers.

Some of these are a prelude to gaining a full-time and meaningful position in many companies, but all of these have positive connotations for the individual. Volunteering is also an established way of improving knowledge, experience or skill. Whether it is volunteering within a chosen profession or looking outside it to find an opportunity that doesn’t exist within work, volunteers are usually well thought of by potential employers.

With the new governance structure for BIGGA approved by the ACM at HTME 2015, there are potential opportunities on offer for more members and the benefits of becoming involved in the structure are well worth considering.

Even fell stuck in a rut? Busy job but not much variation, and only limited opportunities to develop? Volunteering ticks these boxes at a stroke.

At the outset – you learn how to:

• Negotiate with people
• Meet and greet people at events
• Take meeting minutes
• Set agendas
• Write meeting reports
• Develop action points

All of these are real people skills and all of them come with volunteering throughout BIGGA Committees.

If you want to feel valued and to work as part of a team – this is the Section Committee - then that would be a great place for you. The way the team develops and how the dynamics come together to bring progress. Being part of a committee gives you an important insight into how your Golf Club Committees should work (and also why they sometimes don’t!).

Volunteering is for you!

Paul Worster, former BIGGA Chairman and Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club, is a huge advocate of greenkeeper volunteering. Here he explains why...
IMPORTANT INFO

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....................................................
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Post Code .......................
Mobile ........................................................
E-mail ........................................................
Membership No. ........................................
Handicap ...................................................
BIGGA Section .........................................
Golf Club ...................................................

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

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

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

Deadline for entry is 4th September 2015

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

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

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

How you can enter the BIGGA National Championship, kindly sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at Fulford Golf Club, York, on 12-13 October 2015

You can win £500 worth of vouchers

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

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- Lifts and aerates bunker sand
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Brora Golf Club was founded in 1891, originally a nine hole course which was extended to 18 about ten years later. In 1923 the committee invited the renowned course architect and golfer, James Braid to visit. This he did in February 1924, arriving by train, walking around the course and departing later the same day. For the princely sum of £25, Braid submitted his plan and the course which exists today was born.

There have been very few changes to the layout proposed by Braid, the only minor alteration extended the 11th hole by 53 yards to convert it to a par 5 and the course overall to a par 70.

Through all these years all greenkeepers that have worked there have had limited staff, equipment and budgets. James MacBeath, the present Head Greenkeeper, said: “As far as I can remember there have only been five Head Greenkeepers here and, although the machinery has changed, all have worked to the same philosophy of how we maintain this unique rustic piece of land.”

Low nitrogen and water inputs, a managed aeration and top dressing programme combined with applications of seaweed have kept the playing characteristics consistent throughout the years. Firm, fast, true and well presented turf, just how a traditional links course should play.

In recent years James has added applications of the wetting agent, Revolution, to his programme. This has eliminated dry patch during the warm summers and reduced the problems caused on the edge of greens by sand splash from the bunkers.

He makes two fertiliser applications on greens and surrounds. One early C-complex 7-0-7, then in mid summer a 4-0-8 invigorator, with some seaweed applications in between.

Other than that it is only Revolution and soluble iron during the winter months. Tees and pathways receive similar inputs and the rest of the course only gets what nature provides.

Brora is unique in many ways, not least because they share the land with the local crofting community who have a historic right to graze livestock on the course. Sheep and cattle wander freely around the course, whilst unobtrusive single strand electric fences protect the greens from damage.

Over the years this relationship has helped to maintain the rough at playable heights, but now beside the golfer who thinks it is wide open. Like all great architects Braid has made clever use of bunkering and subtle changes in angles to protect the greens.

With the maintenance practices preparing firm surfaces they become almost impossible to hold from out of the rough.

Although recent warm and wet summers have helped the rough to thicken up, the club and its greenkeeping team are committed to retaining the playing characteristics at Brora and plan to thin the rough out where necessary.

Brora is a traditional out and back links, the 9th green sitting at the furthest point from the clubhouse.

Even with this layout Braid has managed to get each of the four par threes to play in a different direction. The 9th and 18th play north and south while the 6th and 13th play east and west.

It is perhaps a little unusual that each nine ends with a par three, the 18th at 201 yards uphill to a green with a false front and a severe swale in front is particularly challenging.

The members and visitors watching your trials and tribulations from the clubhouse overlooking the green do nothing to add to your sense of wellbeing!

Located just 20 minutes from the well known course at Dornoch, Brora has many regular visitors who make the long journey north to play this spectacularly scenic gem.

Why not join them?
Understanding fertilisers

Making sense of the multitude of fertilisers on the market can be difficult. With a choice of granules, liquids, and powders – quick release, slow release or controlled release, selecting the right approach means understanding how different products will react.

Headland Amenity’s Andy Russell explains the differences.

Using a fertiliser is a way of supplying one or more nutrients that are essential to the growth of plants. Efficient and well thought-out fertiliser practices help to produce a healthy, green and well thought-out fertiliser containing the nutrients that are essential to the eventual result you want.

The first place to look for such information is your supplier. Anyone selling fertilisers should be able to explain the make-up of their product.

What are the sources of nitrogen? Ammonium and nitrate nitrogen will provide an almost immediate response, even in cool temperatures, whilst urea or perhaps sources of organic nitrogen will require warmer soil conditions before they are able to have an effect.

Where does the potassium come from? Maybe it is supplied as potassium chloride – a cost-efficient popular source with a relatively high salt index (harmful to some plants) or maybe it exists as a slow-release organic material.

Hopefully, your supplier can use the information on the label to explain the ‘ingredients’ and their role in achieving the desired results.

With slow or controlled release products, it may or may not state what proportion of the nitrogen (for example) exists in that form. This is of course extremely important information as it will have a huge bearing on the expected performance of the product.

You would expect a fertiliser with 75% of its nitrogen in a stated controlled release form (CRF) to work for much longer than an equivalent product with only 40% controlled release nitrogen. You might also expect the second product to be significantly less expensive than the first, as the CRF portion is likely to be the most costly element of the fertiliser to produce.

It’s not that there are actually too many ‘bad’ fertilisers. Mostly they are just a vehicle to deliver nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium that are essential nutrients for plant growth – sometimes combined with other ingredients.

Unfortunately, some nutrient sources are cheaper than others and this sometimes leads to products being formulated to provide only a colour response rather than to contribute to a wider set of desired benefits such as consistent growth, presentation and overall plant health. To get the best out of a given material, it is important to understand how it will work and what response can be expected under a given set of conditions.

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Making sense of the multitude of fertilisers on the market can be difficult. With a choice of granules, liquids, and powders – quick release, slow release or controlled release, selecting the right approach means understanding how different products will react.

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Grass species selection

In his final article, Dr Paul Miller explores grass species selection, and the impact of turf management practices on the ability of a plant to fulfil its biological requirements.

In conversations with other industry professionals, and in relation to the development of golf into parts of the globe where experience and skill in turf management are limited, we really can’t start with the question ‘what grass do we want to grow here’, but would be wiser to consider ‘this is our environment’ (technically, financial, social), given that, what grass will do the best job for us?

So, for example, Agrostis tenuiflora (A. palustri) is a desirable grass because of its potential density, texture, colour and quality of performance under intensive maintenance, and is often the first choice grass for cool season turf.

It is also an interesting choice in transition zone and even warm-season environments, but it remains a cool season grass, and so will naturally be stressed in transition zone and warm season summers and need a lot of life support in order to remain free of disease. Implications are for increased irrigation demands, syringing, fertiliser use and disease management.

I illustrate using an extreme example, in Picture 1, which is a golf course in Asia, attempting to grow creeping bent grass in a monsoon summer – the combination of 30°C, torrential rain almost daily and complete humidity meant it was stressed to the point of giving up. I never did establish if this was strictly speaking a disease, or the conditions of ‘wet will’. In either case this was, in my view, a square peg being forced into a round hole, and it didn’t work.

A more positive example a little closer to home is that of Castle Stuart Golf Links near Inverness. The development team of this new course wanted to create a links golfing experience, a large part of which would be achieved by growing fescue-dominated turf throughout the golf course. There was no point in sowing fescue into any old soil and crossing their fingers – for their vision to be realised they needed to ensure the right conditions were created. Again, creating a ‘fescue shaped Yole’ for a fescue shaped peg.

Changing our thoughts now to the almost daily maintenance operation which has a significant impact on the grass plant in height and frequency of cut (and other defoliation practices such as verticutting and grooming). Grasses are adapted to grow using photosynthesis and if an appropriate frequency and height are followed then the plant responds with an improvement in leaf fineness (texture) and density (number of tillers per unit area). Good mowing practice brings improvement to turf quality.

However, removal of green leaf material reduces the plant’s capacity for photosynthesis, and as we have discussed before this is the essential process that allows the plant to manufacture energy-rich compounds used in respiration, growth and repair, and storage for the plant’s energy needs in winter.

Having the height of cut too low for the species under management places the grass under stress because, in a nutshell, it has been put onto ‘starvation rations’, and simply can not manufacture the energy-rich compounds to meet its physiological needs. Under heights that are too low we lose density and texture, and run the risk of scalping i.e. damaging the crown and with it the ability to recover and re-grow.

There is another, possibly more subtle, effect of reducing the above-ground portion of the plant: as we discussed in the second article of this series the plant, in balanced growing conditions, maintains a constant shoot : root ratio. Under heights that are too low we lose density and texture, and run the risk of scalping i.e. damaging the crown and with it the ability to recover and re-grow.

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To summarise, the story, a huge amount of work went into creating a square hole for the desired square peg, the results in terms of superb turf quality and the successful staging of three Scottish Open are testament to that thoughtful, detailed and professional approach.

Of course not all of us are involved in building golf courses in Asia, or indeed in Inverness, but the same thinking can be applied to common practices such as overseeding. Ladybank Golf Club in Fife is a well-known heathland course where strenuous efforts have been made in recent years to reduce organic matter levels in the topsoil layers through the STRI Programme. With progress having been made on that objective, the Course Manager Colin Powrie, is in a position to try and increase the fescue component of the sward by overseeding. There is recognition that this could not be attempted until the right conditions had been created. Again, creating a ‘fescue shaped Yole’ for a fescue shaped peg.

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the below-ground portions. In other words, if we cut too low then we reduce the root mass, and reduced root mass means less capacity to grow deep and strong or to absorb water and nutrients.

A colleague of mine always used to say, "follow the bouncing ball" when thinking about implications of our actions – for us in this instance there are clear, unavoidable consequences to over-aggressive low mowing and other defoliation practices.

A third aspect of turf management that I feel deserves attention here is that of aeration. Of course there are many and varied methods of aeration depending on the particular soil issue under management, but there is clearly a common overarching objective of creating improved growing conditions for the grass plant. Soils are composed of solid mineral material (sand, silt and clay) and solid organic matter, with spaces in between.

After heavy rainfall and once gravity has taken away excess water the spaces can be filled with either air or water (field capacity); when the spaces are small the proportion of space filled with water is greater, when they are larger there is a higher percentage of air.

If we look closely at the sandy soils of the links we find that as much as 45-50% of the soil's volume is 'space', and at field capacity this is divided evenly between air and water. (This point was not missed by those who developed the USGA Green half a century ago – that recommends the same air / water ratios as we find naturally in links sands).

What I am trying to say here is that the grasses that we prefer in turf require well drained, high-air soils, and our aeration practices aim to create that situation or maintain as high an air content as we can. High air content allows proper root function which is the basis of plant health, so don't stint on aeration and topdressing with good quality sand or compost!

So where does all of that leave us? The number of variables involved in turf management (climate, soil, grasses, finance, membership, golfing visitors, media) makes it an extraordinarily complex profession, yet fundamental and central to its success we find a small, fragile organism trying to function as all living organisms try. It has to feed itself, find sufficient water and nutrients, grow, repair itself, repel predators and reproduce.

Our expectations of this organism need to be realistic, and we must nurture it if it is to do a job for us. For turf management to remain sustainable in the 21st century it is essential, in my view, to put the consideration and understanding of the grass plant central to our turf management objectives and practices.

Well set cutting units give the correct height and quality of cut essential for plant health, picture courtesy of Bernhard Grinders.
The Sons of Golf attack Danish turf diseases

Ian Tomlinson, International BIGGA member and Course Manager at Rungsted Golf Club in Denmark, on how greenkeepers based in Scandinavia are teaming up, how they’ve dealt with the tough new Danish Pesticide Laws and the importance of correctly identifying turf disease.

“The Sons of Golf” are a group of like-minded Course Managers who are all dedicated to promoting the finer grasses on their golf greens.

Formed in 2001, the idea was to work as a group, meeting regularly at each other’s golf courses to discuss best practice and traditional greenkeeping methods. Should one colleague have a problem all it took was one phone call and we could all meet at the said club to help and advise.

The issues are not always grass ones either. On one occasion a colleague was under pressure from his committee, so the committee arranged a meeting face to face with the group to help the others fight off disease.

“Turf Greenkeepers Association” organise their annual three day education conference with speakers coming from across Scandinavia and the UK. Amongst the guest speakers was Dr Kate Entwistle, Turf Grass Pathologist. Kate frightened the 100 delegates to death for two hours as she explained in great detail all the issues associated with pests and diseases in 2014! As a group we decided that it would be very beneficial to us to see if Kate would like to visit us.

During the last three years we have met and visited all our eight golf courses in one day in the autumn and again in the spring. The purpose of this “Tour de Fungus” as we call it is to look at our worst two greens disease wise at each club and discuss all the management we have done. This usually covers nutrient inputs, aeration, topdressing, mowing heights and bio stimulants.

We then make a note for each course to see if there are any treatments used at one club that will help the others fight off disease.

We all agreed that to have one of the leading plant pathologists in the industry with us during this tour would be extremely beneficial. Thankfully Kate accepted our invitation and so we enjoyed two hugely educational days with her.

Four of the group had professional microscopes. We agreed to collect diseased turf samples from our greens so at the end of day one we could look under the microscopes and identify Microdochium Patch disease from Take-all Patch. Some of the guys had put the samples in a plastic bag and put them on a radiator and we had some great mycelium and spores to work with.

One thing we learned during Kate’s visit was the importance of correctly identifying a disease. We had one sample which had been attacked by Microdochium nivale originally. We all assumed that the mycelium on this sample would be Microdochium but were wrong.

It turned out that a secondary infection had taken place and the mycelium clearly showed that the turf was now under attack by the fungus that is associated with Dollar Spot. All intriguing stuff and one colleague said that he had learned more in two days than in 40 years of greenkeeping.

Amongst the disease we inspected whilst out on the courses were Microdochium Patch, Dollar Spot, Thatch fungus, Take-all, Moss and Algae. We learned how Martin at Copenhagen Golf Club had approximately 5-10% clover on his greens - but as the land belongs to the Queen with 2000 wild deer roaming on it he cannot use any pesticides to treat this problem.

He had been trialling iron sulphate at the back of a green using rates from 200g up to 800g of iron per Hectare every few weeks applied in late summer when growth was good. He had managed to remove the clover successfully at the 600g rate without losing grass density but how the salts will affect the grass roots remains to be seen. But, in the kind of work some of us have to do here as pesticides are banned. We have one club who have not sprayed fungicides for seven years and two others that have not treated for three years.

We discussed the effects of aeration in autumn and the risk of disease attacks with Kate and there seems to be some correlation that this can happen. We have seen photographic evidence from Norway where snow has had attached itself only around vertidrain holes.

At Furesø GC Thomas had vertidrained in August and you could see in November Microdochium on one green in lines where he had aerated. All of this starts to make you question your management strategy against the timing of your operations.

As a group I would say that for the first time most of us are not vertidraining our greens in autumn this year but postponing it to early spring to see if we have less disease attacks. As a group we become a little bit wiser every year but we cannot fight mother nature and we have had a drought again this year for the second year running. How does this affect fungal attacks?

How will we if we get 50cm of snow tomorrow and it remains for the next three months? Should we have vertidrained after all or not?

Spring will tell us if we have been correct with our management and maybe Kate will be back again next year to share for knowledge with the group. For now we would like to thank her for coming over to Denmark. Our group also shows how beneficial it is to work closely with your colleagues as we do here over.

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The outcome of this meeting was we decided that it would be very beneficial to us if Kate would visit us.

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Bunker club

Stuart Imeson, Head Greenkeeper at Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club, recently held a North East Section event for other greenkeepers in the area to learn about revetting bunkers. So how did this event go?

Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club was founded in 1900 and has unusually remained a proprietary club. The course and has unusually remained a club was founded in 1900 and has unusually remained a proprietary club. The course

The first of his initiatives was delivered recently with help and encouragement from Simon Olver and Jack Hetherington, both fellow committee members, and the full support of Peter Gilbert.

The idea was to allow young assistants in the area to join the team at Dunstanburgh to learn all about revetting bunkers and to design and build a new bunker in keeping with the superb course. So, Jack Hetherington (Ponteland Golf Club), Adam Mavin (Bedlington Golf Club), Ben Petter and Scott Robson (Whitley Bay Golf Club) and Jack Friar (Percy Wood Golf & Country Retreat) took advantage of this opportunity.

All of them praised the idea and enjoyed the experience immensely with Stuart’s own team also enjoying networking with greenkeepers from other courses within the area, leaving them feeling more inclined to attend a BIGGA Section event.

Jack Hetherington kept a diary of the week which he discussed the work completed, the reasoning behind the changes to the course and dodging the ‘weather bomb’ that hit the area...

When Stuart said he was holding a bunker renovation week I jumped at the chance to join him and I’m so pleased I did.

The aim of the week was for Stuart to explain and show the process involved in installing new bunkers and renovating existing ones, for example the design, placement, communicating to members and committee and finally installation of the bunker. In return we provided free labour to help him and his team.

Day One

“Arriving on the first day I was greeted with a bacon sandwich and introduced to the rest of the crew. We headed out onto the course to have a look at some of the bunkers that had recently been renovated with riveted walls.

“We then visited the 9th (Stroke Index 1) hole where Stuart explained how the SI didn’t match the way the hole played. Due to this a fairway bunker would be installed and the green side bunkers renovated to toughen the hole up.

“We discussed various arcs and styles, yardage from the tee boxes, size, shape, depth and shaping around the bunker. We then tackled the first bunker at the 9th green that needed a riveted face installed.

“We also reduced the size of the bunker with the view of installing a second bunker to the right hand side of the green.

“By the end of the first day we had lifted an area to create a new ladies winter tee box and used the turf to build our first riveted wall on our new smaller bunker. We altered some of the shaping around the green, so that in the future the green could be extended out behind the bunker to allow trickier pin locations.

“One thing I noticed straight away was how open Stuart was to suggestions from his team and even his new crew.

“During the day we discussed that maybe a second bunker added as a cluster of two and joined together with shaping would be better than the original idea of a standalone bunker and more to rea

“We then managed to finish all the bunkers and the tee box by kying turf that was ordered earlier in the week. We topped off a fantastic week’s work by playing the back nine starting with the newly modified hole.

Day Three

“We began by starting the process of finishing the bunkers around the greens on the 9th. We had an unexpected visit from The National Trust before the ‘weather bomb’ hit and conditions were too severe to continue.”

Day Four

“We were ready to start the final bunker on Thursday morning. To keep in line with the members, The National Trust and the SI, location selection would be vital. It had to fit with the lie of the land, challenge the tee shot but not be too penal.

“Once we decided on the positioning we began digging out the bunker and because it was being established into a mound in the landscape very little shaping would be needed to keep the natural look.

“With the spoil created we were able to construct the new ladies winter tee box from where we had been lifting the turf to build the riveted bunker. During this process we were able to get some good feedback from the members and it was mostly agreed that it improved the hole.

“Stuart Imeson, Head Greenkeeper at Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club, recently held a North East Section event for other greenkeepers in the area to learn about revetting bunkers. So how did this event go?

“Stuart joined the BIGGA North East Section Committee in 2014 and has championed the idea to enthuse young greenkeepers in the area to gather together to network and learn from each other. Stuart quickly identified that for a young greenkeeper to attend a Section event for the first time was tough, explaining that facing groups of strangers could be a challenge for the average young greenkeeper.

“The aim of the week was for Stuart to explain and show the process involved in installing new bunkers and renovating existing ones, for example the design, placement, communicating to members and committee and finally installation of the bunker. In return we provided free labour to help him and his team.

Day One

“Arriving on the first day I was greeted with a bacon sandwich and introduced to the rest of the crew. We headed out onto the course to have a look at some of the bunkers that had recently been renovated with riveted walls.

“We then visited the 9th (Stroke Index 1) hole where Stuart explained how the SI didn’t match the way the hole played. Due to this a fairway bunker would be installed and the green side bunkers renovated to toughen the hole up.

“We discussed various arcs and styles, yardage from the tee boxes, size, shape, depth and shaping around the bunker. We then tackled the first bunker at the 9th green that needed a riveted face installed.

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“With the spoil created we were able to construct the new ladies winter tee box from where we had been lifting the turf to build the riveted bunker. During this process we were able to get some good feedback from the members and it was mostly agreed that it improved the hole.
David Fraser is Head Greenkeeper at Mortonhall Golf Club, a beautiful tree-lined course offering immaculate greens and a large expanse of natural landscape. Founded in 1892, Mortonhall is the oldest course in the City of Edinburgh and regarded as one of Scotland’s premier clubs.

David recently implemented a wildflower programme to improve the appearance of the course’s ‘out of play’ areas. He said: “These areas had become very untidy due to old gorse, elder and damaged sycamore and the tendency for autumn leaves to collect there, encouraging weeds and nettles.

“We selected three south facing sites of 700m sq, 500m sq and 200m sq and took a slightly different approach at each. In some cases, steep slopes and decades of accumulating plant debris meant removing six inches of plant material first, much of it by hand!”

But by June, David’s hard work had paid off and flowers were in full bloom. Flowering continued right through to October, with different species and colours coming through at different times, offering an ever-changing rainbow of colour - highly praised by the club’s membership.

Biodiversity

As well as improving the look of the course, David’s objective was to promote its ecology and create areas of natural biodiversity and habitat creation. He said: “The insect life encouraged by the flowering was evident from the start, but by August it was unbelievable! All sites were literally alive with bees and other insects.

“Having extra hands-on guidance from Tom Brannan at Greentech Sportsturf, our Barenbrug seed supplier has also been invaluable, giving us the confidence to go ahead with this major programme. There were a few sceptics to convince!”

David added: “Wildflower meadows can look perfectly natural on a golf course, but consideration should be given to the mix of species and ratio between grass and flowers. Think about whether you want a very natural look or whether you want lots of colour, and how each will sit alongside other areas of your course. If in doubt, speak to Dave Greenshields. He took the time to visit the club and advise on the best way forward.”

The wildflower programme has been a huge success, and the sceptics have now seen the benefits of wildflower meadows first hand. Barenbrug’s wildflower mixes not only create a highly attractive and sustainable landscape, they use only British wildflowers, providing the best habitat for local flora and fauna. They also help clubs to fulfil their environmental policies while offering an easy to maintain solution for greenkeepers.
Get even with wetting agents

David Goldstone at Amenity Sales explains how a new technology called Evensperse will help greenkeepers conserve water, optimise turfgrass colour and improve the overall health of golf courses.

What does Evensperse do and is distributed within the turfgrass rootzone?

Evensperse is a new commercial soil surfactant to feature proprietary Variable Charge Technology. Unlike conventional soil surfactants that are limited by fixed anionic (negative charge) or amionic (neutral charge) functional groups, Evensperse can alter its ionic state and molecular architecture to more comprehensively perform at the soil-water interface. Evensperse delivers the outstanding turfgrass colour, quality, performance and consistency green staff expect from their soil water management programme. It is a highly versatile and responsive product engineered to maintain peak performance across a wide range of soil conditions.

How do I know Evensperse is working?

Evensperse can be tank mixed with most fertilisers and can be effectively tank mixed into the turfgrass root system. It is a first-class, high quality, user friendly machinery for its customers. 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 UK have been sharing in that experience, finding out just how low the whole life service costs of Baroness mowers can be!

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After another very successful three days supporting BIGGA and Greenkeeping at BTME 2015, Baroness would be happy to arrange your demonstration so you too can find out how you can benefit from substantial whole-life ownership cost savings.
A mission to Moscow

International BIGGA member Derek Grendowicz has had an interesting career journey via Scotland, the USA and Denmark, and has spent the last two years in charge of the grow-in of Russia’s newest golf course. Sallie Taylor spoke to him to find out more.
Derek is a Scot who grew up a stone’s throw from Gleneagles. In 2012 he moved to Moscow to work as Project Manager in charge of the grow-in period of construction of Russia’s newest golf course, the Jack Nicklaus Signature course of Raevo Bogachevo.

The course, which lies 50km from Moscow in the Russian countryside, has been under construction for three years and Derek described it as a privilege to be involved.

Tell me about your career journey from Perthshire to Moscow?

“During school, once I’d buried all thoughts of becoming a professional footballer, I worked at Gleneagles during the summer holidays and then took a full time job on the Golf Courses after leaving school, giving me the opportunity to attend Elmwood College to study greenkeeping. “After six happy years I was offered an education programme in the USA for 18 months and took the opportunity to experience greenkeeping American style through the Ohio State International Intern Programme. “This supposedly short visit turned into eight years! I worked at Augusta National and New York’s Westchester Country Club, as well as completing a two-year degree programme at The Pennsylvania State University. “This allowed me to experience a more scientific side of golf course management to complement the excellent practical knowledge from Scotland to produce a quality golf course. “As well as working during the annual PGA Tour event at Westchester, I was lucky enough to volunteer at many courses that held major tour events, such as Valhalla, TPC Sawgrass, Winged Foot, Atlantic Athletic Club and Pebble Beach. I learnt so much from many Golf Course Superintendents proving that there are many ways to attempt perfection. “In 2007 I travelled to Denmark to work at the 36 hole, Luukler Golf Course in Nystofte. Denmark is just beautiful. They have a very high standard of living, great healthcare, very family orientated and it’s a great place to live and work. There are only 160 golf courses in the whole country, so it is still a growing market. “After five years in Scandinavia, I was offered the irreplaceable job of Project Manager/Grow-in Superintendent at the latest Jack Nicklaus Signature course in Russia. It was an easy decision to make. “It’s a huge project featuring an 18 hole golf course, practice and driving range, a teaching academy and clubhouse. There are plans to build a complete village on the site with 250 residential properties, a hotel and beach and country club. “The project, owned by the Mikhailov family – whose interests include beef and poultry farming – has been on paper for around six years. Construction began in 2011 when they began to clear the 570 acre site. The course layout, including native grass plantings covers 185 acres of this. It was previously mostly farmland and forestry. “The course is due to be finished at the end of 2015 with an official opening date of 2016. I’m really loving the experience here, being in at the very start, watching the place grow around me, putting everything in place. You can’t get better than this, and then of course, it will be a pleasure to look after it. “It has been fascinating to see the designs on paper come to life. Jack and the architects visit from time to time. They may make the odd change here or there. Everything is flexible. None of the holes are finished yet but the grass is planted, the construction team and the shapers are here every day.”

In Raevo Bogachevo the only course in construction this year?

“There are a couple of courses east of Moscow and in St Petersburg that are being built right now and earlier this year Skolkovo Golf Club has opened. It’s another Nicklaus signature. “The number of golf courses in Russia is very low for the size of the country, so there are plenty of opportunities to attract people to golf. “There is a large economy in Russia with a lot of diversity so the market is large enough.”

Wore grinders always on your early shopping list?

“Yes, I wanted to get them early with the first machinery, as they are an integral part of the maintenance of any golf course and even more important during new constructions.

“We have been doing lots of sanding of the greens and tees so I wanted to get them set up right away to protect the young grass and encourage strong growth. This is every bit as important as cutting the grass. “I’ve used Bernhard grinders at other places I’ve worked and since being in the Superintendent position this is the first time I have bought them myself. Bernhard is the preferred grinder unit for this area of the world as they supply a great back up service. Everyone is a phone call or email away, and with the long warranty the quality should speak for itself.

How are you managing with the language?

“My wife and I are picking up Russian as we go along. I pick up the basic phrases pretty quick and my assistant speaks good English, so between us, we manage perfectly well. It’s amazing how useful sign language is too.”

How often do you come home to Scotland, and do you manage to get a break from work?

“I am away for a few weeks a year at conferences and shows, as well as vacations. Working every day from sun up to sun down during the season, any break is good. We don’t get much chance during the season to travel home, except for this year when I was lucky enough to return to Gleneagles for the Ryder Cup to work as a volunteer. It was good to be back on familiar home ground for the week and be involved in such a great tournament.

“We like to travel and explore as much of the world as we can during the off-season, as well as doing some snowboarding in the Alps. It’s great to get to the gym most evenings and of course, I like to follow the football from back home. “A final comment on life at Raevo Bogachevo, “Every day I see something new, face another challenge so it’s a very exciting job to have and I love the involvement, and of course, I am very excited to see the course up and running.”

For more about Bernhard Grinders please visit www.bernhard.co.uk
Events Coming Up

Cleveland
Golf days: Blackwell Golf Club are holding the Spring tournament on Wednesday 29 April. The Autumn tournament which will be held at Wymyard Golf Club. Both courses are superb and it would be great to see a few new faces.

Booking forms for the Northern Region Seminar day at Chester le Street Golf Club on the 11th March are now available and can be downloaded from the BIGGA Facebook page.

Ron Butler from Wilton Golf Club will be celebrating 50 years at the Club on Wednesday 11 March.

Northern
The Northern Regional Championship at Chester le Street on 11th March 2015 is already looking like a sell-out so thank you for the support, it would be great to keep this event in the North East.

You will all be eager to get out on a course and swing the clubs around so please try and support your Section Spring outing at Sharpley Springs Golf Club on 22 April, book by contacting David Thompson by email croch60@ Hotmail.com or Tel: 07977 701301.

The Northern Regional Championship for the Whitelaw Bowl is to be held at Penrith Golf Club on 15 September where the overall winner will win entry to the National Championship to be held at Fulford Golf Club on 12-13 October 2015.

Sheffield
The Sheffield AGM was held at The Grange on 18 February where we had 19 members in attendance with a few apologies. We have elected three new committee members along with support committed from several others.

News

Northern
The new committee now consists of: Dennis Cockburn, John Watts, Andrew Slingsby, John Waite, Nigel Coulthir, Chris Goodall, Kevin Moore and Rob Gee.

Prior to the AGM a Texas scramble 9 hole event was held, the winners were:

1 – Chris Goodall, Gary Fearon, Andy Slingsby and Dan Breed

2 – Arnon Schvadke, John Watts (also won best jumper) and Gary Potter

3 – Nigel Coulthir, Tom Coulthir and Richard Pulf. £92 was donated to the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

A massive thank you is extended to Rawdon Golf Club for holding the event, for a well presented golf course, and a fantastic lunch!

Northern West
Congratulations to Stuart Hogg on becoming the Course Manager at West Lancs Golf Club. We would also like to welcome Vincent Jerino - Deputy Course Manager at The Mere Golf and Country Club, Stuart Lyon – The Mere Golf and Country Club, and Gary Mowen - The Mere Golf and Country Club.

North West
We held a seminar at Coleg Cambria on 18 February, an overview of the day will be in this column next month and no doubt be posted by Simon on our section Facebook page. The coach that ran to HTME was well attended with 24 people who went that otherwise may have not had the chance.

Our best wishes go to Rob Hulme of Vale of Llangollen GC, who is now well on the road to recovery after a heart related health scare in January.

North East
We’ve had some chainsaw courses going on at Tyneside GC where the guys are very welcome back to the membership, and a course is planned at Wymyard GC. Jack Hetherington narrowly missed out on competing in the final of the kickboxing after a hard fought semi-final that went to a majority decision. Jack was compensated a little to find that he had been selected for the FTME so well done all round. Jack, also Barry Walker has been selected to represent the World at the Las Vegas ten Pin Bowling Championships in August - congratulations on the selection and good luck Barry.

We wish Ian Millar well after his move from South Moor Golf Club to Riberly Golf Club and hope all goes well for him in his new role.

On a very sad note, our sincere condolences to the family and friends of our former BIGGA Chairman, George Marshall. Thanks to all the members who attended George’s funeral. It really was a great representation for both the North East and Cleveland Sections for one of our founder members.

Welcome New Northern Members
Brendan Brown, Affiliate, Northern Lubricants Ltd, Anthony Callan, First Assistant, Prudhoe GC. John Hampton, Greenkeeper, Walkerley GC, Kevin Blyeant, Greenkeeper, Llanguludno GC, Adrian Skanes, Groundsman, North Yorkshire County Council, Moehays Thomas, Head Greenkeeper, Baron Hill GC Ltd, Damian Wormald, Head Greenkeeper, Walkerley GC, Daniel Hisley, Assistant Greenkeeper, Gadsthorpe GC, David Strong, Assistant Greenkeeper, Penrith GC, Guy Lawson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Penrith GC, Craig Stringer, Assistant Greenkeeper, Prudhoe GC, Michael Davies, Assistant Greenkeeper, Gadsthorpe GC, Trevor Palmner, Assistant Greenkeeper, Prudhoe GC.

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Notes
@BIGGA Ltd
Please email your notes to
rigbytaylor.com

Events Coming Up
• The first golf day is at Selby Golf Club on Monday 27 April. Soup and sandwiches will be served at 12 noon followed by 18 holes of golf. The day will conclude with a meal and presentation at a cost of £45. Campey will be holding machinery demonstration days at Fairlaw Golf Club on 17 March and Forest Pines Golf Club on 19 March. For more details contact Julia Campey on tel 01260 224568 or email julia.campey@campeyturfcare.com

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

**NORTH**

The North Section Committee have added two new recruits over the winter period. Welcome George Mitchell from Newgacher GC, who has taken over the 200 Club, the section’s largest fundraising tool. Members should expect their tickets to be sent out very soon. Could everyone please send payment to George ASAP.

Neil Sadler has also joined the committee and we will be responsible for all the communications within the section, including the magazine and social media. Our aim is to make sure we have some information for section news every month.

Neil and George have replaced Dale Robertson and Hugh McLatchie, who have contributed more than 30 years between them to the section committee. On behalf of the committee and all members, we thank them for their time and commitment.

Harrogate has now been and gone for another year. The show was another huge success with the usual stories surface! Our Patron’s Award winner from last year, Johnstone, said:

“Just wanted to say I really enjoyed the experience of attending BTME 2015 and found it extremely beneficial. It was an outstanding week of education, networking and reviewing products available within the industry. The education part was very important to me, the workshops I attended were excellent and there was a good mix available for all levels within the profession. The show itself seemed busy with a great atmosphere and there was a wide range of products, allowing me to see the advancements in machinery and agronomic technology on display. I also got the chance to meet several greenkeepers I may never have met if I did not attend the event. I will be returning to Nairn Dunbar Golf Club knowing that the members and my employers will benefit from this experience.”

One or two of us are heading for Trussas for the Golf Industry Show. I’m sure we will have some stories for the next section news.

Hopefully all the winter projects will now be completed and our courses will be back in shape for the new season.

**SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND**

To say the weather in recent weeks has been challenging would be an understatement. Since the beginning of the year the South West courses will be back in shape for the new season. Hopefully all the winter projects will now be completed and our courses will be back in shape for the new season.

**CENTRAL**

18 March at Elmwood Training Room - Paul Miller talking about Sand, Sand and Mare Sand.

Spring Outing this year is at Monifieth Golf Links on 28 April, entry forms should be sent out, if you have not received one please feedback ASAP.

If you have not entered the 2015 Pairs Competition, you just have enough time to enter. Entries to be in by 15 March.

**WEST**

The spring outing is confirmed for 24 April at Catteroon Golf Club, thanks to Clinit McAllister for accommodating us. David Pleasing retired last year after a long service with the club. I look forward to playing this hilly course with a lot of par 3 holes which are tight and interesting.

The Autumn outing is arranged for September at East Renfrewshire GC – date TBC.

**EAST**

Stuart Duff and Gullanie Golf Club have kindly agreed to host a course walk on 12 May for members. This will be an exciting opportunity to see the preparation work for the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open in June. It will be interesting to see how the composite course will be configured. Full details next month.

By the time most of you read this the Scottish Regional Conference will have taken place, so the next event on the horizon is our Spring outing to Longniddry Golf Club, on April 16. Keep your eyes on your inboxes and letter boxes for the entry form.

We send out most of our seminar/event flyers by email but we don’t have many up to date email addresses, could you get in touch so we can update our system please.

**WEST**

May I take this opportunity to wish a speedy recovery to Gareth Rodgers of Bute Golf which is currently in hospital.

Last month I mentioned the difficulty golf clubs were facing at presenting with losses and budget constraints curtailing projects, this appears to be increasing significantly as people are finding other ways of filling their time rather than 4 1/2 hours around a golf course. I mentioned how we as greenkeepers need to play our part, and by that I mean altering the way we carry out tasks to be less disruptive, altering shifts to prevent interference with play and keeping tight controls on budget issues by seeking the best prices.

A lot of different articles are available at present to help clubs change their governance and membership structures, which will go a long way to assisting, but the best way is to talk to committee to find out how things can go forward and how you can be part of that process. Please feel free to comment on how you and your club are looking to the future.

Finally, if anybody has some information they wish to share or you are interested in the football then please contact me on 07790 829314, or stuart.taylor@groswinthertunderdbrook.com

**EAST**

Please note Grant Fogley and Grant Moran are not members of the committee as was claimed in last month’s notes.

It was sad to hear another course closure in the East of Scotland section area, we hope everyone affected at Castle Park find suitable positions.

East Section now has a twitter account @BIGGA_ES add us and keep in touch. Again a reminder that if your contact details have changed please feedback ASAP.

**Welcome New Scottish Members**


**Welcome New International Members**

Michel Van Uffelho, Golf Club AHA DE MAN (Belgium), Soeren Aare Toemming, Helsingborg Golf Club (Denmark), Andrew Kelly, Golfclub Munchen Eichenried (Germany), Jos Persoons, Affiliate, Meltingen International BV (Netherlands), Jonathan Eccles, Head Greenkeeper, Grini Golf Klubb (Norway), Hakan Stalbro, Affiliate, Swedish Golf Federation, Jaen Adkijer, Hoornse Golf Club (Sweden), Ahmet Cagil, Antalya Golf Club (Turkey), Alwin Zattemer, Aphrodite Hills Resort (Cyprus).

**Welcome New Republic of Ireland Members**

Paul Coleman, Greenkeeper, Dromoland Castle Golf Club, Richard Campion, Adrian Clark, David Coyle, Andy Cumnions, John Cunningham, Andrew Duncan, Dean Gillane, Clain Hodgers, Jake Lee, Liam Murphy, Shane Murphy, Billy O’Keeffe, Colin O’Leary, Michael O’Neill, James Payne, Lorcan Ryan, Nicolas O’Conduin, Robert Mealia, Shaun Donnelly, Adrian Hourihan - all Students at Colaiste Stiofan Naos.

**EVENTS COMING UP**

**SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND**

Spring Golf Outing – 14 April at Dunonald Links. Proceeded by a short education programme – Gridding Workshop, Soil Moisture and Sustainable Bunker Renovation. Please register your interest for the golf day with Derek Wilson. We look forward to seeing everyone on what I hope is a bright and sunny day.

**CENTRAL**

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We now have Facebook and Twitter accounts, @bigseastnids and East Midlands BIGGA on Facebook. This is an important one now so here we go - we are on the hunt for past trophies won in the East Midlands Section BIGGA golf days, and are calling on all you lovely people to return them to us so we can collate what we have to start up the trophy cabinet again. If you have one please get in touch with Nigel Colley at Rothley Park, he seems to like polishing the trophy!

I hope you are all on the up and heading into the spring on the front foot. Remember you may have however for these pages, big or small, be sure to send it over gillkems@hotmail.co.uk or Matt Nutter warm mind!

**MIDLAND**

We start this month with some sad news, many of you will have known Mike Firman. He unfortunately passed away on 12 February. Mike had been at Olton for 30 years and only retired in 2010, he was an absolute gentleman of greenkeeping and he will be sadly missed. Condolences from everyone at BIGGA go out to his family, RRP Mike. Congratulations to course manager at Edgbaston Golf Club Eddie Mills who became a dad to a lovely daughter Ava congratulations Eddie and Lee. Little Ava donned an Aston Villa kit minutes after birth - not sure if that’s allowed Eddie!

Congratulations to Chris Biren who has moved from Hatchfield Brook to take up a post on the dark side (looking) at Reading Football Club. Good luck with the straight lines Chris - also Kevin Myers has joined first call as a Regional Sales Manager.

Rigby Taylor would also like to announce the appointment of Jim Cassidy to the ranks as a rep for the Staffordshire and West Midlands area, he can be contacted on 07778 665506.

Here’s hoping local Farols rep Matt Gilks has warmed up after supporting dealers in Ireland for their annual greenkeeper show in Reykjavik - it’s a tough life!

**Thanks to Sponsors**

**MID ANGLIA**

The Mid Anglia Section would like to thank the wonderful sponsors for March – Farols. The Mid Anglia Section would like to thank the wonderful sponsors for March – Farols.

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**East Midlands**

Greetlings, as I write to you I am currently supporting a greenkeeping show in Ireland, you may ask “Why?” But there are 64 courses here, Ashridge GC, all the best in his new sales role for Rigby Taylor Ltd

Campey Turfcare.

Pairs For Partners To Be Drawn On The Day.

Start: 10:00 - Cost £27. Closing Date: 21 November. Prize Sponsor - announced shortly. It’s a straight knockout comp, betterball match play.

**Events Coming Up**

**Mid Anglia**

For our golf event of the year will be held at Brickendon Grange GC on Thursday June 4 from 1pm so look out for more information on our Facebook page and expect entry forms coming your way soon.

This is the qualifier for the National so hope to see a great turn out to support this popular event.

Another date for your diary is our Summer Pairs Competition at Welwyn Garden City GC on Thursday 23 July.

**East Midlands**

We are going to run the pairs competition again. The closing date for entries is 27 March, £10 per pair and the cost and the final venue will be announced shortly. It’s a straight knockout comp, betterball match play. All fees payable to the East Midlands section through Asa English please.

**Spring Tournament** – Gaudet Luce GC. Wednesday 20 May. Start: 12.30 - Cost £25, Closing Date: 26th May. Prize Sponsor - Harolds Amenity. 18 Hole Stableford. Please contact Rhys Thomas to book


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

**Midland**

**South East**

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

**Events Coming Up**

**East Anglia**

**Spring Competition & National Championships Qualifier, 1 May, Lewes Golf Club**

**Sussex Section Away Day, 10 June, Littlestone Golf Club**

**Sussex Spring Competition & National Championships Qualifier, 1 May, Lewes Golf Club**

**Lewes Golf Club**

This will be conducted by Billy McMillan and Matt Plesed.

**Thanks to Sponsors**

**MID ANGLIA**

The Mid Anglia Section would like to thank the wonderful sponsors for March – Farols. To contact Farols call Matt Gilks on 07778 665506. Also a massive thanks to everyone who attended and sponsored the Midland Regional Conference at Stonebridge - it was well attended and very well run by Roger Butter and the team.

**East Midlands**

Thanks to Headland for sponsoring the Pairs Competition.

**Welcome New Midland Members**


**News**

**Mid Anglia**

We would like to wish Jim Cassidy, former Course Manager of Ashwood Golf Club, all the best in his new sales role for Rigby Taylor Ltd covering the Midlands area.

**East Midlands**

Greetings, as I write to you I am currently supporting a greenkeeping show in Ireland, you may ask “Why?” But there are 64 courses here, Ashridge GC, all the best in his new sales role for Rigby Taylor Ltd covering the Midlands area.

**South East**

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

**Events Coming Up**

**London**

Wednesday March 18 there will be a demo of both the dry jet sand injection system and the installation of the new drainage rope at Muswell Hill GC at 10.30.

**Sussex**

Spring Competition & National Championships Qualifier, 1 May, Lewes Golf Club

Spring Competition & National Championships Qualifier, 1 May, Lewes Golf Club

This will be conducted by Billy McMillan and Matt Plesed.

**Welcome New South East Members**

Kevin Myers, Affiliate, Firstcall Cornwall Ltd, Mark Bennett, Greenerkeeper, Royal Ascal Golf Club, Andy Reynolds, Assistant Greenerkeeper, West Chiltington Golf Club.

**South East**

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

**Events Coming Up**

**Events Coming Up**

**Sussex**

Spring Competition & National Championships Qualifier, 1 May, Lewes Golf Club

Spring Competition & National Championships Qualifier, 1 May, Lewes Golf Club

This will be conducted by Billy McMillan and Matt Plesed.

**News**

**London**

Hope you are all getting your winter jobs complete as spring is not far away.

**Thanks to Sponsors**

**Sussex**

The Sussex Section is indebted to the continued support and sponsorship of the trade and would like to thank the following: Avoncrop Amenity, Colnbrook Turfcare, Countrywide, Ernest Dow, Eversis, Godfrey’s, Grass Roots, Headland Amenity, Indigrow, JSM Limited, Lilster Walters, Mitchells & Butlers, Ripley Taylor, Symbio, Taic.

**Welcome New South East Members**

Kevin Myers, Affiliate, Firstcall Cornwall Ltd, Mark Bennett, Greenerkeeper, Royal Ascal Golf Club, Andy Reynolds, Assistant Greenerkeeper, West Chiltington Golf Club.
Events Coming Up

SOUTH WALES
Our section’s first match of 2015 will be played at Wentnor Castle Golf Club located in the heart of the picturesque vale of Glamorgan on Wednesday 25 March. The first tee is booked for 12 noon, cost for golf £15 including a 3 course meal. Great fixtures for this year’s golf please support as many as you can.

SOUTH COAST
The first Turf Club course visit is planned for 12 March at the Berkshire GC. This is limited to 30 so be on a first come basis, it’s free but you will need to find your own way there.

Details of the Spring Competition tbc.
Match v Secretaries is planned for June at Burley GC, Tony Gadd & South West Section Countrywide Knockout.

SOUTH WEST
Can I remind everyone that prompt payment of seminar and training fees is required, this essential for keeping the section finances in order and to save us on admin fees.

Thanks to Sponsors

SOUTH COAST
Thanks to all our sponsors that have joined the Patronage scheme so far, the list is looking good. Anyone else that would like to sponsor the Section please make contact with the committee.

DEVON & CORNWALL
Thanks to all our sponsors that have joined the Patronage scheme so far, the list is looking good. Anyone else that would like to sponsor the Section please make contact with the committee.

Welcome New South West & South Wales Members


two, last year’s competition was a great success and we look forward to staging the event once again. All entries to Joe Curtis, green@gloucestershiregolf.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. Please make registration enquiries to Lucy Selleck via southwestsection@bigga.outlook.com

News

SOUTH WALES
A reasonable amount of greenkeepers from our section attended another successful HTME, an opportunity for us all to catch up with many topics discussed. Stuart Ross, Richard Hatcher, Emry Nicos and Mark Wilshire enjoyed the exhibitors and Continue to Learn. Enjoyed Tuesday evening’s Welcome Celebration with many award winners, including Emry collecting the Greenkeeping performance of the year award on behalf of Ian Kinley and his team at Royal Portrush. I’m sure we all learnt something new.

DEVON & CORNWALL
Congratulations to George Pitts Mg who recently got the job as Head Greenkeeper at Sunningdale’s New Course. George - thank you for all your time and effort you put into the sections, you will be missed.

Well done to Jon Wood of Tewosse Golf Club for winning the HIGGA photographic competition and good luck as he will be working at St Andrews. Also well done to Mike Ellis who will be going to America in May as one of the John Deere TPC Sawgrass delegates.

Congratulations go to Keith Fellow who has been at Falmouth Golf Club for 40 years which is a very impressive achievement. Well done also to Mike Bush MG who was previously Course Manager at St Mellion International Resort, he’s now Group Course Manager at Crown Golf. Mike will be looking after 38 golf courses at 25 separate facilities.

Results from Bude & North Cornwall GC: 1 Gordon Tarnblum, 2 Gavin Moore, 3 Martinicoe. Nearest the pin - Pete Newman. Longest drive - Pat Hodobe.

Christy Worthington led over 30 people around the course while almost 20 golfers enjoyed playing in the calm Cornish weather for a change. Jon Wood also gave a very impressive talk about what he has been doing to get rid of grass in his greens.

SOUTH WEST
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Thanks to Sponsors

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DEVON & CORNWALL
Thanks to all of our sponsors who have joined the Patronage scheme so far, the list is looking good. Anyone else that would like to sponsor the Section please make contact with the committee.

Welcome New South West & South Wales Members

**Waste2Water go strength to strength at BTME!**

BTME 2015 was a major success for Waste2Water with a record number of ‘serious’ buyers visiting their exhibition stand.

A delighted Tim Earley, Managing Director, said: “With investment in a Recycling Wash System now an urgent priority to ensure compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive which comes into force this year, interest was higher than ever!”

“We’ve recently added two new Service Engineers (pictured left and right above) to the team to cope with the increase in demand, which was definitely the right decision as the significant uplift in orders we’ve been experiencing since the middle of last year looks set to continue through 2015.”

The Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System ensures full compliance with the new environmental legislation. The Above-Ground System allows easy maintenance and the innovative design enables the system to be installed outside and be used all year without the risk of freezing. There is now need to install the systems in a building or a container and there are no expensive underground tanks to empty. Installation could not be easier, often retro-fitting into an existing area to minimise the budget.

“And don’t forget, Recycling Wash Systems are approved on the Water Technology List (WTL), which allows a 100% First Year Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) to be claimed. If you didn’t make it to BTME this year and still need to improve your equipment wash area just give us a call as we’ll be delighted to arrange a free site survey and supply all the knowledge, expertise and equipment you need.”

Contact Tel: 01782 373 878 Email: info@waste2water.com

**MACHINERY WANTED**

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

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**ALL WEATHER SURFACES**

TO ADVERTISE PHONE: 01243 812706 FAX: 01243 812706

Tel: 01243 812706 Fax: 01243 812706

www.wastedwater.com

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**ALL WEATHER SURFACES**

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

**TURF**

Specialist Growers of Turf for Golf Courses

Contact: Steve Dyne
Tel No 01744 874 130
Email: steve@verdesports.com

**MACHINERY WANTED**

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

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To advertise contact James on 01347 833 832 or email james@bigga.co.uk
Golf & Grass Machinery Service Manager

Ringway Golf Club, Altrincham

Course Manager

Ringway Golf Club was established in 1909 and the 18 hole course was designed by the celebrated golf course architect Harry Colt. It is situated on the south side of Manchester within a beautiful mature parkland setting and is a private members club providing peer round golf. The Club regularly hosts both County & Regional Championships, the most recent event being the 2014 Northern Qualifying round for the Open Championship.

Vacancy:

The vacancy for this position has arisen due to retirement and we are keen to recruit a Course Manager who has excellent technical ability, proven management skills and an enthusiasm and dedication to support the Club’s commitment to continuous improvement.

The successful candidate will:

• Have a minimum of 3 years management experience in a similar role.
• Be familiar with NGF Level 2 & Level 4 or additional relevant sports turf qualifications such as an NCCPe degree would be advantageous.
• Work closely with the Club Manager and Course Committee to present an outstanding golfing facility year round for members and visitors.
• Be a forward-thinking and dynamic leader to ensure the golf course continues to develop and develop the Club’s future strategy.
• Have a traditional approach to turf management based on sound agronomic principles.
• Promote and maintain compliance with all relevant Health & Safety legislation.
• Hold correct certification to complete work as required, for example pesticide spraying.
• Be responsible for all machinery including routine maintenance.
• Have good level of knowledge in respect of automatic irrigation systems.
• Have responsibility for managing budgets and working within financial controls.

If you wish to apply, please request an Application Form from:
Ms Fiona Cornelius, Club Secretary, Ringway Golf Club, Hale Road, Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8SH or email: fiona@ringwaygolfclub.co.uk
Telephone: 0161-880-2630 Option 3 for the Office.

Closing date for applications: 21st March 2015

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

For further information about the Club please visit www.ringwaygolfclub.co.uk

Closing: 6th March 2015
Farol Ltd, Milton Common, Oxfordshire

Assistant Greenkeeper

We are currently seeking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic Assistant Greenkeeper to join our experienced team. This position will be involved in the daily presentation of the course, project work and all aspects of turf maintenance involved in the day to day running of this unique golf course.

Applicants will need to possess the following qualifications, experience and skills:

• 2 years minimum green keeping experience.
• NVQ/SVQ Level 2 or Level 3 working towards completion.
• PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates or equivalent.
• Excellent communication skills, especially with customers and as part of a team whilst maintaining a respectful attitude to your working environment.
• A “can do” attitude and excellent attention to detail.
• Full driving licence.
• Sales will be required, depending on experience.

Benefits include:

• Uniform provided
• Lunch while on duty
• Full training

Salary will be negotiable dependent on experience.

To apply or for more information please email a covering letter and CV to Gary Kevin, Ringway Golf Club, Hale Road, Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 8SH.

Closing: 21st March 2015

Farol Ltd, Milton Common, Oxfordshire

Seasonal Greenkeeper

April to October (full time)

West Middlesex Golf Club, Greenford Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 3EE

The Club is looking for an enthusiastic, capable seasonal greenkeeper to join the existing team. The position involves maintaining/improving the parkland golf course. This would suit an individual wishing to gain experience to further their career.

The ideal candidate will be extremely flexible and will have, but not essential:

• 2 years greenkeeping or sports turf experience
• NVQ2 or similar

Please apply by email to admin@westmidgc.co.uk with your CV and covering letter

Walton Heath Golf Club

Assistant Greenkeeper

We are currently seeking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic Assistant Greenkeeper to join our experienced team. He/she will be involved in the day to day presentation of the course, project work and all other aspects of turf maintenance involved in the day to day running of these championship courses.

Applicants will need to possess the following qualifications, experience and skills;

• 2 years minimum greenkeeping experience.
• NVQ/SVQ Level 2 and Level 3 working towards completion.
• PA1, PA2A and PA 6 spraying certificates or equivalent.
• Excellent communication skills, especially with customers and as part of a team whilst maintaining a respectful attitude to your working environment.
• A “can do” attitude and excellent attention to detail.
• Full driving licence.
• Sales will be required, depending on experience.

Benefits include:

• Uniform provided
• Lunch while on duty

Salary will be negotiable dependent on experience.

To apply or for more information please email a covering letter and CV to: astrachan@waltonheath.com

Assistant Greenkeeper

Closing: 30th March 2015

Farol Ltd, Milton Common, Oxfordshire

Greenkeeper (in training)

£16,209 - £19,056

An exciting opportunity has arisen to be part of the greenkeeping team at The South Buckinghamshire and Academy courses.

As the successful candidate you should possess the following:

• Previous greenkeeping experience.
• NVQ Level 2 in sports turf maintenance or equivalent.
• PA1 and PA6 spraying qualifications is desirable but not essential.
• Excellent communication skills.
• Sound understanding of health and safety.
• Hold a valid full driving licence.
• The ability to work as part of a team.

The successful candidate will need to complete a CRB application.

If you would like to discuss the position informally, please contact: Paul Frew, Head Greenkeeper.

Closing date: Monday 30th March 2015.
Interview date: Thursday 9th April 2015.

Application forms and further details are available at www.southbucks.gov.uk or by telephoning the Personnel Unit on 01285 837287 (24-hour answerphone) or by writing to, The Personnel Unit, South Bucks District Council, Council Offices, Capewick, Oxford Road, Denham UB9 4LU.

We are committed to equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

www.thesouthbuckinghamshire.co.uk

03753 643332 Golf.careers@southbucks.gov.uk

The South Buckinghamshire, Park Road, Stokenchurch, Buckingham, SL7 2LW

The South Buckinghamshire Academy, Stokenchurch, Buckingham, SL7 2LW

The Vineyard Group

We are looking for a Deputy Greenkeeper to join our team at Donnington Valley Golf Club on a full time basis. You will enjoy 40 hours per week, this will vary over the seasons and over the years. You will develop your career potential to complete your NVQ. Salary is £16,209-£19,056 per annum dependent on experience.

The main responsibility of the role is to maintain the golf course in excellent condition. You will support the Head Greenkeeper in all aspects of the greenkeeping role. The role also offers an opportunity to take responsibility for the Greenkeeping team.

Essential Qualifications:

• NVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf Management
• Minimum 2 years greenkeeping experience
• PA2 and PA6 spraying qualifications is desirable
• PA1 spraying qualifications

Desirable Qualifications:

• Horticultural qualification
• GCSE English and Maths

For additional information about the Club please visit www.donningtonvalleygolf.co.uk

Assistant Greenkeeper

To apply for any of the above positions or find out more information please email a covering letter and CV to: recruitment@grandaltd.co.uk

Closing Date: 8th March 2015

Recruitment

Assistant Greenkeeper

Walton Heath Golf Club

Closing: 6th March 2015
Farol Ltd, Milton Common, Oxfordshire

Golf & Grass Machinery Service Manager

Closing: 6th March 2015
Farol Ltd, Milton Common, Oxfordshire

Gladendale Golf is recruiting a Deputy Head Greenkeeper for one of its flagship venue Tilgate Forest Golf Centre. Following an extensive investment programme, this is an exciting opportunity for anyone looking for a new challenge.

Reporting to the Head Greenkeeper, this is an important role as the Deputy Head Greenkeeper will oversee the team that is responsible for the maintenance and presentation of one of the busiest golf venues in the south of England in the Head Greenkeepers absence.

For a copy of the job description or further information, please contact: lucking@gladendale.co.uk

Recruitment

Closing Date: 6/03/15
Our favourite tweets this month...

@sandrabigganor Great turnout at Stonebridge GC for the BIGGA Midland Region Conference @BIGGALtd

@kevodaloe75 Just had two awesome days with @TheToroCompany seeing the magic come together. Thanks to everyone.

@ConnahSimon Excellent first day @GIS_2015 All ready to go for day 2. @BIGGALtd @BernhardGrinder

@CentenaryHGK Great work from the team over the last week to lay 9000m2 of @county turf That’s broken the back of the range renovation project @BIGGALtd

@HadlowGroupABC For all those who attended last weeks seminars make sure you claim your @BIGGALtd CPD credits http://www.bigga.org.uk

@Sammy3334 Think I am finally all packed and ready! @BernhardGrinder @BIGGALtd @GIS_2015 #texas

@daire_paddy Head Greenkeeper position achieved back in the Emerald Isle! #links #bigchallenge #TksScotland #HardWorkPaysOff @greenkeepingire @BIGGALtd

#takeleswithyou photo special!

Controlled release fertilizers... with lasting power!

- Superior polymer coating technology for N & K
- Up to 24 weeks consistent and predictable feeding
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Weighing in at just 900kgs, our Reelmaster 3550-D is the fairway champion of the world. So, while it makes a big impression – it won’t leave one. Because it floats like a butterfly over contours. What’s more, it has a productive 2.1m (82ins) cutting width and 7mph (11kmph) mowing speed. With its turf-friendly tyres, the superior traction of a Series/Parallel 3-wheel-drive system, and a powerful 25hp (18.5kW) diesel engine, the RM3550-D is just simply a knockout.

Full product details at www.toro.com

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