# GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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

# GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

#### **EDITORIAL**

Editor Karl Hansell karl@bigga.co.uk



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

the list of delegates who

by Jacobsen in 2013.

promotions.

paying off.

I had cause recently to revisit

attended our first Future Turf

**Managers Initiative sponsored** 

Of the 20 assistants and deputies

who took part, it is brilliant to see

11 are now course managers in

their own right and at least four

others have received significant

Clearly these bright young men

had good futures ahead of them

in any case: they crafted excellent

applications for the FTMI process

and recognised the opportunity

it brings. But it is great to see

that the key principles behind

the initiative, that of preparing

our ambitious members for the

I am not surprised; the level

of education, guidance and

their time to assist.

challenges of getting a top job and then succeeding in it, appear to be

mentoring the delegates receive is

genuinely first class. My thanks go

again to Jacobsen for continuing to

support the initiative, and thanks

to all the mentors who have given

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# WELCOME



Following this year's event, FTMI now has an alumni of over 100, many of whom are making great strides, and we look forward to adding to this number soon.

We now move into the season of tournament support. The European Tour's flagship event, the BMW PGA Championship, is just around the corner and it will be fascinating to see the massively renovated West Course at Wentworth take centre stage once more. Naturally we wish Kenny Mackay and his colleagues all the best in preparing the course for the event and hope the volunteers on the first BIGGA Support Team of the year enjoy the experience of being part of a huge international tournament as well as making friends and expanding their network and their CV.

Over the last few days I've got sunburnt at my son's rugby tournament (note to self - read this month's GI article on skin protection from the sun!) and then the following day it snowed. I hope for everyone's sake the weather calms down in the very near future.

One change on the horizon that is welcome this month is the government funding system for apprenticeships, specifically in relation to England but it will affect all of the UK. As you know BIGGA and the GTC have worked very hard over the last couple of years to revamp greenkeeper apprenticeships. The new 'Trailblazer' Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping Level 2 Apprenticeship has been live in England for a few months. But the original funding system was complicated and unwieldy. This has been replaced with a simpler UK-wide formula and there is a large cohort of budding young greenkeepers about to take their first step on their long and rewarding careers. BIGGA member input was central to the revamped Level 2 Standard and the renewed emphasis on plant health and science is of benefit to all. Work is taking place preparing Level 3 and Level 5 apprenticeships. Both will be substantial upgrades on recent offerings.

Meanwhile in this edition we focus on some extreme greenkeeping from the most remote points of the UK and further afield. I particularly enjoyed reading about Tony Gadd's experience when he blazed a trail of his own in the Ivory Coast over 30 years ago, I hope you do too.





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If they want to purchase topdressing at Cape Cornwall it costs double that of a club located close to London.

Just consider that for a moment.

Standards are expected to be the same as those in more accessible regions. And when the economic viability of a course depends on its ability to attract tourists, word of mouth and reviews are of the utmost importance. Golfers don't want, or care, about the excuses if we fail to meet their ever-increasing expectations.

And yet haulage means it costs double what clubs in central regions pay for their topdressing, fertiliser, and other vital ingredients of a high quality course.

I use Cape Cornwall as an example purely because it is one of the courses featured in this month's magazine, but these increased costs will come as no surprise to any BIGGA members who find their efforts to improve their course hampered by geography. Geography that, ironically, often makes their course such an attractive place to play golf.

So how do they do it?

Here at BIGGA we're doing our best, providing education opportunities to members all over the country, no matter where they are, via regional conferences and online resources.

But to a great extent these teams out there are relatively isolated. Unable to order a ready-made solution via next day delivery, they must rely on ingenuity and their own experience to overcome the everyday challenges of preparing a course. In this edition of Greenkeeper International we take a look at three very different courses, each located in a remote location, and faced with rather unusual challenges.

From the jungles of the Ivory Coast to Fair Isle, the UK's most remote inhabited island, these are fascinating tales about producing golf courses in the most extreme conditions. And from the trials and tribulations of these greenkeepers, I have no doubt there is a lot that we can all learn.

Check out our Learning & Development page this month, as I enjoyed a great chat with Allan Duncan, first assistant up at Drumoig, St Andrews. Allan is the latest recipient of a Higher Education Scholarship sponsored by Jacobsen, which has enabled him to get back to college and study towards a HNC in Golf Course Management.

A couple of years ago, Allan was a BIGGA member but he didn't engage with the association, unaware of many of the opportunities on offer. That changed with the renewed focus brought about by fatherhood and a desire to progress his career to give his kids a better life.

Now he's studying towards an advanced qualification, and he's taking every chance he can to gain more experience. At 37 years old, Allan is proving it's never too late to better yourself.

His is also a reminder that there are so many benefits of BIGGA membership that you may not even realise. Head to our website to find out more, or get in touch with the Membership team, who'll be more than happy to help out.

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# OUR CONTRIBUTORS

### 26 Gillian Nuttall

Gillian Nuttall is CEO of Melanoma UK, the UK's leading melanoma support group. The charity aims to give melanoma patients and their families much needed support during the difficult times faced upon diagnosis. This month she explains what greenkeepers can do to help prevent the disease in the workplace.



### 34 Laurence Pithie MG

The first person to attain BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper status in 1991, Laurence is a two-time winner of the Greenkeeper and Groundsman of the Year award. This month he made his way to Cape Cornwall to see how the team overcomes the challenge of working in such a remote location.

### 48 Dan Waring

Last year we introduced a new category to the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards - open to those aged 20 or under. Dan Waring of Ashbourne became the first winner and was rewarded with a work experience placement at the Vidauban resort in France, which he recalls in this issue.

### 52 Dr Terry Mabbett

GI contributor Terry is a pest, disease and weed control specialist with 40 years of international experience covering research, consultancy and journalism in subjects such as agriculture, horticulture and forestry. This month he discusses the onset of field woodrush and how this can affect the health of UK golf courses.





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# ACROSS THE BOARD



# Sidney Arrowsmith MG

#### President

#### Hello fellow members. I hope you are all well and your courses are in great shape.

Becoming your president at BTME was indeed a great honour for me, and to have had the opportunity to represent you all at various functions both at home and abroad is a great privilege.

My first official engagement was in Orlando for the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show. It was a memorable experience as the scale of the operation was vast and the excitement that it created was tangible. Speaking to exhibitors and superintendents throughout the week just solidified my understanding of how BIGGA and its members are greatly respected in the US. Presenting a Master Greenkeeper award to Erin Stevens was probably the highlight of the week. I felt proud to stand on the stage as president of BIGGA and hand over the plaque to a very grateful American superintendent, it was quite a moment.

February took me to the FEGGA Conference in Portugal, which was both exciting and rewarding. One could not help but feel the passion and desire that these European greenkeepers have for their industry. It was abundantly clear they too have issues which are worrying and far reaching, but by open dialogue and a desire to overcome some significant problems I can only see a bright future for them. Congratulations Dean Clever, FEGGA's executive officer, and all the FEGGA board members.

During early March I attended the South East Region's annual golf and dinner day at Walton Heath. It was a pleasure to be there and I would like to express my appreciation for the invitation. Congratulations must go to Course Manager Michael Mann and his staff for producing a golf course in great shape, which was enjoyed by all.

My final function in March took me to Lords cricket ground and the annual awards presentation hosted by England Golf. It was a very rewarding experience to attend such an influential event. Sitting at the BIGGA table made me realise just how far we as an association have come. For too long we knew that there was a top table there somewhere, but now thanks to a lot of hard work by the team at BIGGA HQ and the Board of Management we now not only sit at this table but influence the menu.

April was somewhat quieter, with one external function to attend. I headed to Birmingham University for the annual PGA Graduation Ceremony. This is when young, aspiring PGA members receive their certificate and pass out as fully fledged professional golfers. It was an inspiring event and I felt a glow inside knowing that at BTME we do just the same thing in recognising the greenkeeping talents of our members.

And so back to the day job at Frilford Heath. We have been flat out on many fronts, including the final preparations for seeding the new six-hole academy course. It is going to look superb when germination has taken place as we move from bare earth to that



Norman Knox, Sidney Arrowsmith MG, Alex James and Tim Brown

lovely light green colour. Artificial tees and greens will enable all year round play and an opportunity for players of all standards to sharpen up their short game. The facility will also help introduce new people to the game of golf.

At Frilford Heath we were fortunate to receive a STRI Golf Environment Award for our fenland restoration project. Since then, work has continued in this area, plus other initiatives for wildlife conservation. It has been a most rewarding time, and the interest from members has been extremely encouraging. The greenkeeping team has done a remarkable job and I offer them my heartiest congratulations.

Another aspect of our work is the continued development of young people. We have taken on two apprentices, who are now part of the Trailblazer scheme. The senior members of staff are very proud to be passing on our knowledge to the next generation as we develop two more young men for the future of greenkeeping.

I am sure many of you have been grateful for the decent weather that we have received during the early part of the year, which has been very welcome, and particularly at a time of the year when players' expectations can quite often be unrealistic.

What is quite often overlooked by players is the fact that if Mother Nature decides not to cooperate then it becomes very difficult to produce playing surfaces of a good standard so early in the year, and it is at this time when we are very vulnerable and open to criticism. During these difficult periods all I can suggest is to remain patient and do what you know is the right thing to do.

And my final message to you all is good luck with the new season, and enjoy the challenge.

# **FUNDING YOUR FUTURE**

The Continuing Professional Development and world class education we provide would not be possible without the assistance of BIGGA Partners and BIGGA Education Supporters. Ensuring our members stay at the forefront of the turf management industry takes considerable investment, and we are hugely grateful to the following for their ongoing support.



BIGGA

Individual Contributors: Steven Tierney MG 
Chris Lomas MG 
Andrew Campbell MG CGCS
Richard McGlynn 
Jaey Goodchild 
Frank Newberry 
Greg Evans MG

# **GINERS DESK BIGGAAAVAACS** CAN YOU SPARE TWO MINUTES TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR A BIGGA AWARD?

#### The BIGGA Awards will be returning to BTME 2018, providing an incredible opportunity for the country's hardworking greenkeepers to be recognised for their efforts.

The BIGGA Awards are a unique opportunity for every single BIGGA member to get involved, whether as an individual or as a team.

And we've made the nomination process even simpler, meaning it now takes less than two minutes to put forward a worthy candidate for a prize.

The awards will be presented during the Welcome Celebration, sponsored by Jacobsen and held at BTME on 23 January 2018.

The winner of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year award at BTME 2017 was David Langheim MG and the team at Wimbledon Park.

Encouraging other members to get involved this time around, David said: "I think the awards are a fantastic opportunity for BIGGA members to give their peers the recognition they may not receive otherwise.

"Within the greenkeeping industry, so much of the hard work we put into the course goes unnoticed, and so it is fantastic that we as greenkeepers can nominate our colleagues for their efforts.

THE AWARDS ARE

Young greenkeeper of the year sponsored by



Greenkeeping achievement of the year

Championship Greenkeeping performance of the year



"I still don't know who nominated us for the award last year, but if I did I would give them a huge hug as the team were delighted to receive the award. They put in so much hard work and without that nomination we would never have won. The team were so proud and I can't thank them enough."

Also up for grabs once again are the BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the Year sponsored by Jacobsen and the Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year awards.

BIGGA President Sidney Arrowsmith MG said: "Awards can play a huge role in the success of a greenkeeping team. "They give young greenkeepers special recognition which can help them gain their next role, and for greenkeeping teams it can help remind golf club members what talented staff work at their golf club.

"I know first hand how an award victory can help boost the morale and reputation of a greenkeeping team and so I would recommend anyone who has just a couple of minutes spare, to put forward someone who is deserving of national recognition for their efforts.

"Just being nominated is something anyone would be incredibly proud of, and you never know, they may win."

To nominate someone for an award, scan the QR code and fill in the form



# Fife Golf Trust



All seven golf courses managed by the Fife Golf Trust have achieved certification from the Golf Environment Organisation, making Fife the first local authority to have every council-owned course gain the accolade.

Paul Murphy, course manager, said: "We are delighted to attain this recognition, which marks a key milestone in our journey to demonstrate continuous improvement. I see the award as a legacy which will drive Fife Golf Trust to continue to improve on its environmental management and become even more sustainable."

The Fife Golf Trust comprises Auchterderran, Cowdenbeath, Dunniker Park, Glenrothes, Kinghorn, Lochore Meadows and Scoonie.

# G DOGS ON ))



#### Name: Rudy

**Owner:** Craig Earnshaw

Course: Harleyford

Breed: English Springer

Age: 10

**Favourite treat:** Empty yoghurt pots from the chaps.

**Favourite spot on the course:** Anywhere there is rabbits but never bunkers.

#### Naughtiest moment:

He was waiting for me outside the clubhouse and caught a rabbit in a bush. It was a Tuesday morning and all the ladies were outside the clubhouse. He was sitting there proud as punch with it in his mouth.

**My dog is happiest when...** Running on the golf course in the morning.

If you know a dog we should feature, email karl@bigga.co.uk



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# ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION

id you know last year's winner of the BIGGA photographic competition used his smartphone to take the picture?

The annual BIGGA photographic competition has returned, and we're encouraging every BIGGA member, from the keenest amateur photographer to anyone using your camera phone, to get involved.

From Cornwall to John O'Groats and all around the world, BIGGA members are privileged to work among some of the most spectacular scenery and beautiful landscapes around. And that's what makes the BIGGA photographic competition a real highlight of the greenkeeping year. This time around we've got a brand new prize up for grabs, with the lucky winner being presented with a top-of-the-range GoPro HERO5 Black 4K LCD Action Cam.

The HERO5 Black is the most powerful and easy-to-use GoPro ever and is an incredible tool for any photographer, allowing you to take professional quality action photographs and video.

The competition winner will also receive a framed print of their winning image, to be presented at the Welcome Celebration at BTME 2018 on Tuesday 23 January.

Last year's winner was John Parry, of Wrexham GC, who took a spectacular image of hole changing at his club, with the sun rising in the background. It was a stunning photograph and one that blew the judges away, especially as John took it using his smartphone.

"I was absolutely over the moon to have won," said John. "There were a lot of really good pictures entered into the competition, so I couldn't believe it."

For John, the winning photograph happened by chance, as he was out on the course with a colleague and spotted the opportunity for a picture.

Eleven other finalists will also be selected for the annual BIGGA calendar, so we're looking for images that represent greenkeeping life on the course throughout the year

John Parry

Each BIGGA member can enter up to five images, with the deadline for entries on Friday 25 August 2017. Send your entries to karl@bigga.co.uk

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#### THIS MONTH @BIGGALtd



#### **@Kev\_rh** Woodland at this time of year @LingfieldGolf

@jonwood1978

#smellsgreat #wildflower #bluebell



POGOTurfPro #isolated #handwatering green maps for the team to concentrate where its required #sustainability



**@aldeburghcourse** Putting down root zone for the putting green extension #sunnyskies #aldeburgh



**VEWSDESK** 

#### @GKdavid\_s A big thank you to @fromthebrow course manager at Penn Golf Club for hosting the Young Greenkeeper

holes today



#### **@golfshake** Over at @TheBelfryHotel today learning all about greenkeeping with

course walk and nine



**@PHay01** They were enjoying the #morning #sun on the 9th No1 #sand area @GullaneGolfClub



#### **@charliejaylacey** What a morning changing holes and rolling greens #nofilter #greenkeeper #greenkeeping @oakparkgolf



**@Langland1** Thinking of getting this little beauty to keep my greenstaff fit for the cutting season... #golf

# BIGGA's environmental champions head to Algarve



The winners of the Golf Environment Awards 2017 have arrived back in the UK following a memorable champions' trip to the Algarve.

Frilford Heath's Alex James, Avro's Edward Ainsworth and Adi Porter of Greetham Valley travelled with STRI ecology and environment specialists Bob Taylor and Sophie Vukelic to visit some of the most environmentally conscious clubs in Portugal.

Adi said: "This trip has been so inspirational and I will be taking so much back to my own club to help us do more to become more sustainable. I have learnt that it only takes small changes to make a massive difference."

The three BIGGA members were met by Alexandra Almeida, of the Portuguese Golf Federation, who organised visits to golf courses, so the winners could gain an understanding of the role biodiversity plays in European golf course management.

Environmental Golf Course of the Year 2017 winner Alex James said: "When I was told that I'd be going on the GEA winners trip to Portugal, it was described as a once in a lifetime experience. That phrase doesn't come close to describing just how amazing it was. It was life changing!"

The winners visited Espiche, San Lorenzo, Monte Rei Golf Course and Onyria Palmares, where the resident greenkeepers led the winners on an educational tour of the facilities. Alex said: "I was guilty of thinking that the GEA awards are mainly about bird boxes and bug hotels, but it is so much more than that. Yes, these things are important to promote wildlife and help the environment, but so is turning off heaters, using energy saving bulbs and recycling waste. All of these things help the environment, and we should all look at what we do and ask ourselves how we can do it better."

STRI's Sophie Vukelic said: "Yet again, the winners' trip was a delight for all involved. This year's winners continued to be enraptured by the knowledge shared by their Portuguese counterparts at some of Europe's most environmentally sound golf clubs. We all shared ideas for creating a more sustainable business, from water-saving techniques to nature conservation initiatives and visitor experience. Indeed, the trip highlighted more than ever the need to understand sustainability incorporates much more than bird boxes and wildflowers."

STRI would like to thank the sponsors of the GEA 2017 for their continued support: Ransomes Jacobson, Farmura, Syngenta, Tillers Turf and Wiedenmann.

STRI recently announced The R&A has agreed to become lead partner of the Golf Environment Awards. Entry for the 2018 awards is now open. For more information on the GEA, or to submit your entry, visit www.golfenvironmentawards.com.



Name: Jonathan Eccles Position: Head Greenkeeper Club: Grini Golf Club, Norway

#### What is the most interesting thing you would tell other BIGGA members about Norway?

Norway is a beautiful country, particularly on the west coast where you have the fjords. Summer days are long and fairly warm. We get snow for several months of the winter, where the temperature is usually below freezing.

#### How would you describe the style of course you manage and what are its most defining features?

Grini is a 9-hole open parkland course with 1,200 members. We get about 28,000 rounds per season. We have fescue roughs to break up the holes, and also some large water hazards. The course is built on clay, with sand-based greens and tees.

#### How does greenkeeping in Norway vary from the UK?

The course is typically open from April to October, so we have a short playing season. We usually get snow late in December, which stays until March. It can be difficult to fit all the plans into such a short period of time.



#### What is the best thing about living in Norway?

Norway has a high standard of living. At times there can be long hours in the summer, but it's nice to be able to take it a bit easier in the winter.

#### What is the worst?

I don't really have any negatives about living here, but I do miss some of the British food and my Irn-Bru!

#### How does the weather affect your work?

Snow and ice cover during the winter means I can't really do too much out on the course during that time. If we have a long, cold spring I have to cover the greens with sheets to prevent them from drying out. We don't usually start cutting regularly until May.

### What types of wildlife do you get on the course, that you wouldn't in the UK?

We occasionally have elk on the course, otherwise it's quite similar to the UK in that we get ducks, Canada geese and adder.

#### What is your club management structure like?

I answer to the general manager, with the general manager answering to the board. We both attend the monthly board meeting. I am the club's only full time member of staff, with three seasonal staff working under me in the summer.

#### What is the public perception of golf in Norway?

Golf is a fairly new sport to Norway. A lot of courses opened here in the early 2000's when golf became more popular. There is not the same culture for golf here like there is in the UK and I think a lot of people are put off by the time it takes to play. In the last few years we have seen a slight increase in people taking up the game, and kids can play golf as an after school activity, so hopefully the future will be positive.

### Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

I attend BTME every year and I enjoy the magazine. Although I don't get a chance to attend any seminars outside of BTME, it's nice to be part of the association.

#### What one tip would you give to British greenkeepers that you have learnt in Norway?

The whole learning experience of working abroad has been great. I would really recommend it, particularly to the younger guys. It's a fantastic opportunity to open new doors, see new things and make friends.



# YOUNG GREENKEEPERS' COMMITEE Representing the youth of the sports turf management industry



Stefan Carter, of Wentworth, is preparing to spend a year at Augusta National. He talked to GI about the work he put in to achieve this huge opportunity.

I have a couple of busy and exciting months ahead of me in my career as I write this.

Firstly I will be helping to prepare the West Course at Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championships at the end of May. This will be a spectacular week and the BIGGA volunteers are in for a treat.

Secondly, I am getting ready to head on over to America for a 12-month internship at Augusta National.

Although it all sounds very exciting, I've not always been in these privileged positions.

My first job in greenkeeping was at a golf club in Leicester, where I knew nothing about greenkeeping or golf. I spent a number of years learning the skills of our job, but it wasn't until I was successful in my application to be a part of the BIGGA Support Team for the Open Championship in 2013 at Muirfield that my eyes were truly opened to what standard of greenkeeping and golf courses I could be working at.

Upon my return I knew that working on tournament golf courses was something I wanted to do for the rest of my career. A few hectic seasons of volunteering at tournaments passed, and my short term goals were achieved when I was offered a job at Wentworth.

2016 saw me continue to expand my contact network in the industry and build on my experiences in a number of different climates and situations. Taking advantage of some the opportunities that BIGGA and the YGC offered, I travelled to Portugal, Scotland, Wales and France, all the time taking in everything that I learnt.

I feel extremely privileged to have been offered an internship at Augusta National. I have dedicated a large portion of my time to attending seminars, networking and volunteering to develop myself further and now I feel my time has been well spent as I embark on this new chapter of my life.

I'm now looking forward to learning about how golf courses are managed in America compared to the UK. I will be representing myself and BIGGA as a member of the YGC, and am excited about being one of the few people in the world to have stood on Hogan's Bridge, taking in all the atmosphere on tournament Sunday as the green jacket is awarded to the winner.

Having to get my hair cut for when I start is one of the things I am not looking forward to so much though... but sometimes you have to make sacrifices to succeed in this industry.

Below: Stefan Carter attended FTMI in 2016

All that's left to do now is learn to play golf ready for staff play at Augusta. I feel the course record won't be broken while I'm out there.



GI Ecology

By James Hutchinson BIGGA Sustainability Executive



Background:

bluebells

Nairobi

Cumberwell's

Left: A monkey at Windsor,

It appears the bluebell season is well underway with many of you sending in spectacular snaps of this striking flower.

Take a look at Cumberwell Park and Hickleton's array of mauve coloured lovelies, whereas the perennial environmentalists down at Fairhaven have just planted 100 native types, so all's good in the golf course bluebell world.

Another cracking wildflower which is beginning to peek out is the wild orchid. We have about 50 species, but you're highly unlikely to see them all as the extremely rare ghost orchid could crop up almost anywhere without invite! It was last seen in 2009, so it's due an appearance.

The lady's slipper orchid was once down to one single plant a few years back, and guess where it was growing? That's right, on a golf course! Anyway, Goodwood has an early purple type growing happily in their semi-rough. Will it last the spring or will it succumb to a nine iron?

Along with the budding plants and warmer temperatures comes the influx of the patter of tiny webbed feet. Egyptian geese at Donnington Valley have hatched out eight chicks with many reports coming in of similar wildfowl activity.

Irrigation boxes have long been known to be habitats for mice and insects, but look what La Moye on the Channel Islands has – a beautiful green lizard! They also found a slow worm in a similar irrigation box – reptiles galore in Jersey.

But check out Windsor GC over in Nairobi, which has inquisitive monkeys on its 13th hole. Thanks to Ephraim Mutahi for sending this snap.

Send your sightings to @Ecology1BIGGA or james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk

Right: Goodwood's early purple orchid Below: Hickleton's

bluebells

Right: La Moye's green lizard Below: Paul Wilkie's goslings

#### GI Ecology sponsored by

Since 1900, the UK has lost 20 species of bee, and a further 35 are considered under threat of extinction.

None are protected by law.

Roughs and less maintained areas on a golf course are ideal places to sow RHS Perfect for Pollinator, Euroflor seed mixtures and other bee friendly plants, to help develop the flower-rich environments which our native pollinators need. The Great British Bee Count – organised by Friends of the Earth and supported by Buglife – is taking place from 19 May to 30 June. By counting and recording all the bees you see this summer with the free app, you can help track bee numbers and discover how they are doing across the country.

You can register for the easy-to-use smartphone app at www.greatbritishbeecount.co.uk



#### **MEMBERSHIP TEAM** 01347 833800 (OPTION 1)



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#### Full Members Personal Accident Helpline 0121 698 8046 / 43

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance 0808 181 9194

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline 0333 000 2082

# MEMBERSH Latest news and information from the BIGGA Membership Team

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Greenkeeping can be one of the most spectacular and rewarding careers around, but who do you turn to when things aren't going so well?

When you have a legal problem it can be hugely stressful and it can be difficult to know who you can talk to, not to mention the costs of gaining this advice.

#### Did you know that as a BIGGA member vou have access to a legal advice line?

As a benefit of your BIGGA Membership, you will receive legal expenses insurance, arranged by Perkins Slade, which gives access to a comprehensive legal advice line, offering advice on a wide range of legal services.

The service is provided by Law Express, who pride themselves on not operating a call centre-style environment, but instead deliver quality legal advice. All calls are handled by qualified solicitors.

BIGGA General Manager Tracey Maddison said: "The greenkeeping industry can be high risk and can throw up a number of situations

that mean BIGGA members find themselves in need of legal advice. That's why we launched a new advice line on 1 January this year to ensure that anyone who needs help can have easy access to legal advice.

"This is just another one of the many benefits greenkeepers can receive as part of their BIGGA membership."

#### The legal advice line can help provide assistance on matters of:

**Employment law** Family law **Property** law Consumers

The service is available to BIGGA members and their immediate family as part of the Legal Assistance insurance package.

To use the legal advice line and speak to one of the dedicated advisers, call 0808 181 9194.

By calling that number you will be connected to BIGGA Telephone Legal Assistance so make sure you have your membership number to hand. If you are asked at any point to give the name of the broker or the policy number, quote policy number 513185 and broker name ARAG.

For more information about other benefits made available to BIGGA members, head to the Members Area of the website.





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18 -







GI/EZG0/5/2017



#### LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT TEAM 01347 833800 (OPTION 3)



**Sami Strutt** Head of Member Development

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#### Stuart Green Head of Member Learning stuart@bigga. co.uk

**Deb Burnett** L&D Administrator

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# Latest news and information from the BIGGA Learning and Development Team

# Jacobsen scholarship awarded to Drumroig's Allan



#### A Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarship has been awarded to Allan Duncan of Drumoig.

Allan has become the first person to receive a scholarship in 2017 as Jacobsen and BIGGA continue their fantastic reputation for supporting greenkeeper education.

Higher education scholarships have been awarded since 2002, allowing members to pursue career development opportunities that may otherwise have been beyond their means.

Allan is studying HNC Golf Course Management by distance learning from Elmwood College, allowing the 37-year-old to continue his employment at Drumoig.

"Receiving the scholarship was perfect," said Allan, a BIGGA member for 21 years. "I am new to the whole learning thing again and I'm old in terms of the guys that generally get the award. But as a dad of two, I wouldn't be able to do this without support from Jacobsen and BIGGA and so I am hugely thankful for this opportunity."

Allan is first assistant at Drumoig, St Andrews, but despite spending his entire career close to the Home of Golf, he had been satisfied to stay in the same role. That changed with the birth of his sons, now aged six and eight, and Allan said: "My career had stalled, but when I had kids I decided to move myself forward and start learning. I spoke to Elmwood College, who told me about the help I could receive. It's not cheap to get yourself learning, so the financial help I have received thanks to the scholarship has been tremendous.

"It may not seem like much, but I've been able to get my own laptop and I've been able to secure myself for the next five years of college work."

The experience of returning to college life wasn't as difficult a challenge as Allan had expected and now, just one module away from finishing his first year, Allan said he is excited about what the future holds.

The education is a huge commitment, but free from the financial concerns of paying for the course, he has been able to concentrate on the hard work.

"I wasn't sure how I was going to get on with balancing kids, work and college, but I was pleasantly surprised. I keep a routine of doing college work on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, which are the days when I don't have any kids' clubs to go to.

"When I went to college as a teenager and first got into greenkeeping, I was probably too young to be taking on board all the things I should have been eager to learn. I wasn't interested enough, but now I'm older I realise there are so many things you need to know if you want to progress in your career."

With more than 20 years' experience in greenkeeping, Matt has learned a huge amount. He has been involved in the restructuring of seven holes and said: "I have learned a lot from my course manager here, so I'm hoping to take that on to my next position,



**Congratulations to the** following members who achieved CPD Approved status this month:

Richard Colley, Dunfermline; Ben Kebby, Temple; Lee Strutt MG, RAC; Kevin Weller, Lingfield Park; Chris Trimble, Royal Wimbledon; Matthew Wharton MG CGCS, Carolina Golf Club; Shaun Cuffin, Wentworth; Mark Tucker, Neath; Natasha Repinskaja, St Andrews Links Trust; Lee Carratt, Belton Park; Adrian McCullough, JCB; Paul Armour, Dunbar; Jonathan Barr MG, Lutterworth; David Thompson, Hexham.

The following members also achieved their milestone this month: John Keenaghan, Chipping Sodbury; Andrew Clark, Crane Valley.

hopefully getting my own course to run in the next few years.

"After so long, I had a feeling that my career was stagnating. But progression comes at a cost and I have kids to look after, which is ironically where that drive comes from. Thankfully I got to know a few guys within BIGGA and they have helped point me in the right direction."

To achieve all the qualifications he would like could take Allan up to six years. But with the renewed focus fatherhood brought him, it's a commitment he is willing to make.

Having been a BIGGA member for more than 20 years, Allan said he has only recently realised the extent of the opportunities that are available to members, including not just funding but also the chance to volunteer at major events.

"I hadn't ever used many of the services available to us," he said. "Now I'm more aware of things, everything that comes up I'm going to apply for. You are never going to make it onto everything you apply for, but the opportunity to gain experience makes it worth your time.

"I want to progress, and the only way to do that is to learn more.

"These scholarships give guys like myself the opportunity to learn things we wouldn't be able to do otherwise.

"I really don't think I would have been able to do this without the support of the scholarship and so I am hugely grateful to Jacobsen and BIGGA for providing this opportunity."

# **BIGGA HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### SPONSORED BY JACOBSEN

Thanks to generous support from Jacobsen, BIGGA has been able to award Higher Education Scholarships since 2002.

Designed to help greenkeeper members of BIGGA move into higher education, the scholarships may be awarded to those studying for the following qualifications:

N/SVQ Level 4 **Higher National Certificate Foundation Degree/HND BSc Turf Management** 

The amount of the scholarship awarded depends on the course and the funding available. The applications will be assessed on the candidate's number of years as a BIGGA member, their contribution to BIGGA and their previous training and development.



For more information visit: www.bigga.org.uk/members/ member-resources/highereducation-scholarship or scan the QR code





LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

#### INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS, Richard McGlynn, Jaey Goodchild, Frank Newberry, Greg Evans MG

# Gindustry Update

# Royal Norwich appoints Peter Todd to top role

Royal Norwich has appointed one of the country's most respected golf course and estates managers to oversee its new course development.

Peter Todd worked most recently at the London Club and brings more than 25 years of course management experience into the role, which has also seen him take a seat on the board of directors.

Peter said: "Rarely are new courses built in the UK on such a great piece of land. I could see from the very first time I walked on to the site that these courses could be something special.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

"The opportunity to steer the project in the position of estate manager, coupled with the offer of an appointment as director on the board, thereby playing an integral role in the management, were key to attracting me to the club. The clearly thought through business



David Coventry Chairman of Royal Norwich Golf Club Limited (left) and Brew Craig Director of Royal Norwich Golf Club Limited (right) welcome Peter Todd (Centre)

> plan, aiming to create a sustainable future that delivers exceptional facilities, reinforced my decision to join the Royal Norwich team."

Royal Norwich has announced the £17m sale of its Hellesdon course to Persimmon Homes in preparation for its move to the new site at Weston Park. Work on the course has already begun, with a view to opening in 2019.

Peter worked on the construction of the PGA Centenary course at Gleneagles before joining the London Club in 1992.

# 'Excalibur' found

A digger team dredging a golf course pond were astonished when they discovered a sword sticking out of the mud.

The sword is believed to date from the Battle of Fornham and was engraved with words, birds and animals inlaid in silver.

The Battle of Fornham saw forces loyal to Henry II defeat the rebellious Earl of Leicester.

The site where the battle took place in 1173 is now the golf course at All Saints Hotel, Fornham St Genevieve, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk.

David Weakes was working with the digger when he spotted the sword sticking out of the mud, just like Escalibur. He told the Bury Free Press: "It was sticking out of the digger bucket with the cross handle upwards - it was weird really. I've found coins, old bottles, things like that before, but nothing like this."

Golf courses are renowned as hot spots for archaeological discovery, but the finds are not usually as spectacular as this sword, which was taken to a conservator for examination.

David Harris is in charge of work at the golf club. He told the Bury Free Press "It's wonderful, you can see all the silver emblems over it. We would like to retain the sword on the premises as our restaurant looks out over the battlefield. Museums are great but it would be nice to have it here on the site where it was found."

The sword is currently being held by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service.

# The Dye London

### A Tour-style course, called The Dye London, has been granted planning permission.

The news means celebrated US course architects Dye Designs, famous for designs at Sawgrass, Kiawah Island and Whistling Straits, will be bringing their brand of course design to the UK for the first time.

Plans submitted by the Menai-Davies family detail how the course will feature trademark Dye Design features such as an island green, a tribute to the 17th at TPC Sawgrass.

Perry Dye said: "My design team and I have been working on The Dye London golf course project for over a period of five years. This special project will be a family-owned Dye Designs championship golf facility that will be open to the public and will attract golfers from all over the globe."

Meanwhile, construction on two further Menai-Davies golf facilities in London is already well underway. The first is the 18-hole West London Links and the other is a major adventure golf, FootGolf and junior golf joint venture with adventure golf designer Oliver Mahoney.

"Given this week's decision, work will now proceed quickly on The Dye London," said Tony Menai-Davies. "We cannot wait to fully reveal the challenges that Dye Designs has in store for London's golfers."



# Ask Dr Mumford

#### With Colin Mumford, Bayer Turf Solutions

Do you need advice with your turf problems? Email info@bigga.co.uk

#### Question: My course is in a remote area, how can I improve my greens without shipping in a lot of products from the mainland?

There are several different practices that can be carried out to minimise products being shipped in. Most ancillary items, including chemistry and seed, can easily come in on the next ferry, but bulk items such as root zone mixes are sometimes difficult and costly to import.

Any branches that need to be removed can be chipped and used to maintain paths and bedding areas around shrubs, which will help to improve the appearance of the area.

And as some island-based courses struggle to maintain a fresh water supply, a storage pond or reservoir is sometimes employed to harvest rainwater for irrigation, but it's important to remember that you may need planning or abstraction permission for this.

Retaining and storing raw materials is a simple way to ensure the course is self-sufficient. You can produce your own root zone mix quite simply by composting waste plant materials and blending this with stored waste sand or soil. But you must ensure that the particle size distribution and pH is compatible with your existing rootzone.

If making your own rootzone mix isn't possible and it's difficult to ship in, a good alternative is to hollow core the green and leave the plugs on the surface to dry out. Once completely dry, use a drag mat to run over the plugs, which breaks the organic material (grass plant and thatch) away from the mineral component (soil). As the mat is dragged across the turf, the soil particles will be worked into the surface like a top dressing and the unwanted organic matter can be removed by brushing or blowing. In addition to topdressing, this also aerates the soil and reduces compaction, for better drainage and root growth.

Tweet us your turf questions @BIGGALtd using #AskDrMumford



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# Foley reel science seminar

Grinder manufacturer Foley United has hosted a Reel Science and Optimum Cut Technology seminar at The Grove.

The day was organised by ProSport UK Managing Director Ian Robson and BIGGA London Section committee member Adam McColl, of Gerards Cross. The event was hosted by The Grove's Phil Chiverton.

The Reel Science and Optimum Cut Technology seminar is approved for BIGGA CPD credits and Foley United has conducted these accredited training sessions worldwide.

Fulwell's Sam Evans said: "We have been given a different perspective on grinding today, particularly in relation to increasing longevity of staying on cut. It was impressive. I can really relate what I have seen and heard to our own practices and can see definite benefits." The seminar was delivered by global sales manager Greg Turner, with support from European manager Arjen Spek. The seminar is designed for course managers, head greenkeepers and technicians and centres on providing critical knowledge, backed up with technical studies and verified data on grinding research.

The Grove was the first club in the UK to have the top of the range Foley 653 fully automatic reel grinder and the 673 bed knife grinder.



### GreenMech

Woodchipper manufacter GreenMech has introduced a disc-blade sharpening unit for users to quickly sharpen their GreenMech blades and minimise machinery downtime.

Sales Director Martin Lucas said: "This is a great add-on to have in the GreenMech range. Giving users the autonomy to sharpen their own blades as and when required speeds up the sharpening process for the customer while also improving the efficiency of the chipper, helping it perform at its best."

Introduced in 1995, GreenMech's unique disc-blade system offers cost savings over conventional straight chipper blades. In operation, only 30% of the disc-blade's circumference comes into contact with the woody material. This means that when these edges become worn or damaged, the blades can be turned to the next sharp section - equating to 600% more blade life and up to 150 hours of chipping.



# 'Ground breaking' ideas put into action

Back in November 2016, over 30 of BIGGA's Scottish members attended a knowledge share day with Bobcat and Club Car dealer MTS Group at Westerwood in Cumbernauld, Scotland.

The attendees had working demonstrations on how compact plant equipment can be utilised in ground care and course maintenance. Items such as the Bobcat tree stump grinder, tree transplanter, forestry mulchers and trencher were all shown to make short work of what can be very labour intensive tasks.

On the back of feedback from BIGGA members on the day, MTS Group invested in a trade stand at BTME 2017.

Managing director Iain Black said: "The feedback and insights provided by BIGGA members has been invaluable. By creating awareness of the capability of the attachments outside of their traditional home of construction, the ground care community is now leveraging new ways of working, and being able to hire a Bobcat with a number of attachments has been of real benefit to a number of clubs."

Buchanan Castle Course Manager Ronnie Myles said he has found the Bobcat tree stump grinder and tree transplanter attachments of great use with seasonal course maintenance. He said: "We had over 30 diseased trees which had to be felled and the Bobcat stump grinder made short use of removing their stumps.

"At the same time, we also hired the tree transplanter attachment to plant 30 new trees to reduce the overall cost by only renting one Bobcat loader from MTS Group."

MTS Group are dealers and hire providers for both Bobcat and Club Car and operate throughout the UK.





# Formby Hall charity

Formby Hall has announced leading skin cancer support group Melanoma UK as its charity partner.

Incoming club captains Alan Wix and Hannah Sykes made the decision to work with the charity after Hannah was diagnosed with melanoma in 1999 and given only a 50% chance of survival.

She underwent intense treatment for five years and has had a number of basal cell carcinomas removed. She said: "As a golfer I'm anxious to spread awareness of the dangers of the sun, especially to people playing sport, when it may be forgotten in the efforts to win."

Malignant melanoma is the fifth most common cancer in the UK and more than 2,000 people die from the disease each year. Greenkeepers are considered at high risk, so turn to page 26 for advice on how to stay safe in the sun.



### Parley course opens

The new course at Parley in Dorset has opened following a £250,000 redevelopment that has doubled the size of the golf centre.

At 5,169 yards long, the nine-hole course was opened with a captains' drive off. Centre manager Daryl Dampney said: "We have not only invested a lot of money, but all our staff have invested a great deal of time and effort.

"It was a hugely ambitious project from the start, but the groundstaff has worked wonders and crafted a magnificent course.

"There are nine new greens and seven new fairways and the first to play the course were incredibly enthusiastic about it."

The centre will soon expand further with the opening of a short game practice area and a practice green, to accompany the pre-game practice green.

Daryl added: "The new short game will open soon, it

just needs a week or two to bed down. But it will mean we have the best practice facilities in the region - our professional coaches are very excited."

The course was constructed by Head Greenkeeper Ian Noble.

The team who won the first ever competition on the course comprised of Bob Lloyd, Gary Banks, Logan Davies and Dennis Wilkinson.







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# MEET THE GTC BOARD

This month we talk to Robert Martin, a biomedical scientist who joined the GTC Board in January 2017



I was born in a little village called Robeston Wathen in Pembrokeshire, Wales and educated at the local grammar school where I loved sports and in particular rugby. I represented the school and played for Narberth and the Pembrokeshire youth, and my claim to fame was that I played at the national stadium in Cardiff.

I have spent my career working in the health service in Wales as a biomedical scientist, managing a large group of staff in a very specialist haematology service at a city general hospital.

It would be fair to say I have an analytical approach to most things I do and have a track record of delivering on my objectives, be it as school governor, trustee, council member, or national committee member.

As rugby is a young man's game I got into running for a short time, completing the London marathon in 1991. My family and work commitments deterred me from golf for many years but once I started some 30 years ago, there was no stopping me.

I instantly valued the game, the friendships, the focus and skills required and the benefits of belonging to a club. It became an important part of our family life with my wife Sian and my son Rhys taking up the sport. We have travelled all over the world playing golf and made many friends.

I have been a member of Newport since 1996 and became a very active member, sitting on the general committee for six years, and chair of the house commitee.

I was given the honour of becoming club captain in 2012, which was the 100th celebration of the club. During the year, we were also honoured by the Golf Union of Wales by hosting the Welsh Team Championships.

Captaincy brings with it many responsibilities and an expectation by the members of your expertise in all matters. It was at this time that I realised that I needed a better understanding of our course.

Who better to educate me but the greenkeepers?

I formed a close relationship with them and gained a better understanding and respect for what they do. I especially listened to their views on suggested improvements to the course. In my year as captain, the club started to embark on a programme of change and restructuring, which led to the board structure that is now in place. Through my involvement at the club, I have gained a wealth of knowledge and have continued my involvement and passion for the improvement to golf and its governance by becoming a council member for the Golf Union of Wales.

I was a member of the Club Services committee for three years and following the retirement of the previous chair I took over that role. Last year we had a very successful road show which focussed on sustainability. There were a variety of speakers, including representatives from Pencoed and Cambria Colleges who informed us of all the courses available for Greenkeeping staff. See the Golf Union of Wales website for more.

This year we are focusing on running a Management Development Programme (MDP Part 1) course for Golf Club Managers.

I was asked to be the Welsh representative on the Greenkeepers Training Committee Board of Directors and attended my first board meeting in January. It is a very exciting time for the GTC, in reviewing our Strategic Plan and KPI's.

Nothing stands still and we must adapt and embrace the changing environment. I am looking forward to working with the other board members to deliver our strategic goals.

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# TAKING THE **NEXT STEP** JACOBSE

FTMI 2018 launches in September. Keep a look out for more details coming soon

### HOW FTMI CAN HELP YOU **ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS**

A Textron Company

arch saw the latest Future Turf Managers Initiative take place at Jacobsen's manufacturing

# facility in Ipswich.

It was the fourth year the innovative career development scheme had been hosted by Jacobsen, and we thought we'd take a look back to that first year in 2013, to see how attending FTMI helped the career of one of those very first candidates.

Robin Cheney is now course manager at Thornbury and is one of 11 candidates who have since made the step to course manager or head greenkeeper roles in the intervening period.

#### What were your career prospects before attending FTMI?

"I was looking to make the step up from a deputy to a course manager position. I'm very career minded and had a level 3 HND, so I had the formal education and I believed in myself.

I thought anything I could add to my repertoire that would make me stand out from the crowd would be really useful. FTMI came up and I thought it would be a great string to my bow, something nobody else had."

#### What is your abiding memory of the **FTMI experience?**

"The professionalism of everybody involved, including the candidates, the mentors and the event as a whole. Everyone was there because they wanted to learn and progress.

#### How do you feel the **FTMI programme** helped you moving forward?

I was pretty confident I was heading in the right direction with my career, and it gave me more confidence that yes I was on the right path and yes I would get to there. It gave me the opportunity to measure myself against other people, and I wasn't found wanting. I was actually the first guy from FTMI to get my own golf course.

#### What was so different about the programme compared to others you have been involved in?

As you had a couple of days with the mentors, it gave the opportunity for more one-to-one time with guys that were at the highest levels of the industry and are held in good esteem. You also had the evenings where you could be more social and sit and have a quiet word with them, to pick their brains. That extra time really helped as these guys are giving up their time and knowledge and are

speaking from experience. After FTMI, I was also able to keep in touch with them and they were more than happy to offer advice whenever I needed it.

Hopefully FTMI keeps on going. As higher calibre guys come out of the course, that can only be a good thing for the industry.

#### What was the most important message you would give to anyone thinking about applying for the scheme?

Do it, it's as simple as that. I have had to pay for courses myself, off my own back, and yet with FTMI someone is offering you something that is of the highest quality and it is free. All you have to do is apply and the benefits are endless.

Right: Robin Cheney

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# SAFE IN THE SUM HOW GREENKEEPERS CAN REDUCE SKIN DAMAGE

GILLIAN NUTTALL, MELANOMA UK

### elanoma is the fifth most common cancer in the UK. The main causes are excessive exposure to the sun's harmful ultra violet radiation and use of sun-beds.

Each year over 14,000 people are newly diagnosed and over 2,100 die annually, with information suggesting melanoma is becoming much more common in people who work outdoors.

It isn't a complicated situation: simply put, if someone spends long periods outdoors in hot sunshine and does not have adequate protection from clothing and good sunscreen, the likelihood is their skin will become burned and damaged. Too much exposure to the sun is extremely damaging and burnt skin increases the chance of developing cancer.

There are thousands of greenkeepers working outdoors in the UK and many outside during the summer months, when the sun is at its strongest. Melanoma UK has worked very closely with several golf clubs over the last few years. Captains and Lady Captains have chosen to support their work and raised several thousand pounds for the organisation. Melanoma UK have, via one of their supporting partners, Uvistat, provided sun creams to many golfers. It is extremely important that anyone participating in outdoor sporting activities should protect their skin.

The Health and Safety at Work Act stipulates there is a legal duty for every employer to ensure, as far as is reasonably practical, the health of employees.

It is estimated that 90% of deaths due to melanoma could have been prevented if the exposure to the sun's UV radiation had been properly controlled. It is estimated that 90% of deaths due to melanoma could have been prevented if the exposure to the sun's UV radiation had been properly controlled.

> One might argue that an employer cannot control the sun, but equally, if employers are given the appropriate advice and information about the dangers of burning, a lot could be done to protect outdoor workers in the UK. Melanoma UK feel it is crucial that all employers protect their employees and when it comes to outdoor workers, this is a very easy thing to do.



No good golf club could function without the services of the greenkeepers: they are vital to any club.

# SO, WHAT CAN BE **DONE TO PROTECT THE GREENKEEPER?**

Can the risk be reduced? Melanoma UK gives the following suggestions:

Change in working practices so that less work needs to be done during very hot periods, between 12noon-3pm. Rearrange tasks so greenkeepers can perform certain outdoor tasks earlier in the mornings or late afternoons.

Provide canopies or ensure there are areas of shade for staff to take breaks.

If greenkeepers have standard uniforms, make sure they are lightweight, long sleeved and comfortable, but dense enough to prevent the penetration of UV rays. If no uniforms are provided, encourage staff to make the right clothing choices. Make a hat part of the uniform, which is especially important for men who may be experiencing hair loss.

Provide clear information and guidance on the dangers of over exposure to harmful UV radiation - include this during induction or as part of ongoing training procedures.

Provide good quality suncream with a high SPF, preferably no less than 30. Encourage the greenkeepers to apply 20 minutes before they go outdoors and stress the importance of reapplying throughout the day.

Make sure all staff know the signs to look out for and how to do skin checks. It is worth pointing out that if caught early enough, melanoma is very treatable, like most diseases.

# **Maintenance Free - EaglePlex**



**SKIN CARE** 





1156 . 4

ubota's high performance M7060 Utility tractor has joined forces with its L5040 counterpart to deliver a first class finish at Rye Golf Club.

Purchased by deputy course manager and Rye expert, Garth Grand, the powerful M7060 machine was chosen for the East Sussex course, which golfing luminaries such as Bernard Darwin once called home, based on Garth's single requirement – to deliver delicate high performance.

With his father as steward of the club, Garth spent his childhood growing up on the course alongside his two brothers, who are also course managers at other southeast clubs. The three brothers honed their craft among the sand dunes that define the unique character of Rye, where Garth has been greenkeeping for 25 years.

As experts of the 122-year-old links golf course, Garth and his seven-strong team have spent significant time restoring the scenic beach paths, which are the only way to navigate the course.

In order to ensure the sandy trails aren't disturbed, yet the course can be accessed and maintained by machinery, the Kubota M7060's combination of performance and precision meant it was ideal for the job.

**Continued** over

"A true links course has a delicate balance, but I like to think we achieve it at Rye," Garth commented. "We didn't want to undo the good work we have done restoring the beach paths so we needed good traction from a tractor that was also light on its feet.

"As we regularly topdress the greens and fairways with local sand, we required a tractor that was light but also resilient and durable enough to pull heavy loads. The M7060 is the only tractor in our fleet that can cope with the weight of a loaded top dress. Our L5040 was already at full capacity thanks to handling lighter tasks including regular verti-draining and overseeding, so we needed the M7060 to make sure the course is kept in perfect condition every single day."

Founded in the early 1890's and home to the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, Rye Golf Club has over 500 local members and 400 London members thanks to its individual charm. The iconic course includes a Botanical Site of Special Scientific Interest and is visited by hundreds of visitors each year, all waiting to play the course's holes, sitting atop sand dunes. Garth said: "Many courses on the seaside call themselves links, but a true club is defined by its sand dunes. We work closely with Natural England to protect all that is special to the club and pride ourselves on creating top quality playing services 365 days a year, not just for big events.

"That's why we needed such durable and reliable machines at our disposal. I really like the fact the M7060 has a detent to run the hydraulics, so when you push it into place it stays there. We can now also run a flail behind the tractor and as the driving height is good relative to the machine behind, you have much better vision when reversing."

Pairing Kubota's M7060 and L5040 was attractive for the greenkeeping team as the course mechanic's familiarity with the brand keeps all maintenance work in-house and keeps costs down.

"When I first started greenkeeping you used to concentrate on the greens and tees and the fairways weren't so important," said Garth. "But now you want the whole course looking polished, which is something that we can easily achieve with our Kubotas." **Above:** Garth Grand, Deputy Course Manager

'A true links course has a delicate balance, but I like to think we achieve it at Rye. We didn't want to undo the good work we have done restoring the beach paths so we needed good traction from a tractor that was also light on its feet.'

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# On the Edge of the World

he western tip of Cornwall is one of rugged beauty and at times it can be wild, wet and windy. Laurence met up with a small team who is tasked with maintaining a course on the furthest reaches of mainland Britain and uncovered the challenges they face in this hostile environment.

Designated as being within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Cape Cornwall is the most westerly golf course on the UK mainland, being only seven miles north of Lands End, but some 300 miles from central London.

It is the only 'cape' in England; it's meaning being a headland extending into the sea, resulting in a marked change in water currents. From this point water either flows left into Bristol Channel, or right into the English Channel and on to the North Sea.

It was just to the west of this peninsula that the ill-fated Torrey Canyon came to grief on rocks 50 years ago and spewed over 100 million tons of crude oil over the Cornish coastline to devastating effect.

The Cape Cornwall course was formerly part of Nanpean Farm and opened for play in 1990 after being designed by Bob Hamilton, who later took on the role as the club's first professional. Although a few areas of the course did require shaping and re-construction, the majority of existing grassland areas meant only greens and tees were formed from scratch.

A reminder of Cornwall's famous tin mining industry is evident throughout the course, with numerous underground shafts lying underneath. Each hole is named after a local tin mine, such as the 3rd 'Wheal Call'. The Cornish stone walls, which are an important feature of the course, were built by the miners using local materials, and two remain visible when playing holes four and five.

However, it is the stunning vistas around the cape and the coastline that are the main attraction and on a clear day there are few places in the UK where you can experience golf in such an exhilarating and natural environment. Extreme weather conditions play an important part for many who ply their trade in this region and 52-year-old Head Greenkeeper Mark Prisk is well versed in managing turf on the very edge of these shores.

I caught up with Mark to learn more about this unique course and what his job entails.

#### **A Unique Environment**

The 90 acres of land on which the course is located is owned by the National Trust and leased to the current owner, Gary Firmager, who bought the business in 2011. 'With just three staff there is only so much we can achieve. But fortunately I can rely on my two experienced assistants, who can perform all tasks and in all weathers."

Mark said: " My background is more local authority, being mainly involved in gardens and landscaping in Cornwall. I started here as head greenkeeper in 2016, with the brief of improving the quality and presentation of the course. Quite simple really, but there are certainly hurdles and challenges to overcome: not least the weather.

"The site is fully exposed and when Atlantic storms brew, we face the full brunt as it hits landfall. Balls oscillating on the green are common, but it is when trolleys and even golf carts can get blown over that the real challenge begins. There are occasions when it becomes unsafe for play to continue but that is relatively rare and only confined to the odd day or so in the year.

"I guess we are used to wind and rain here and we just get on with it, although good weatherproof gear is a must.

"The winds are also salt laden and the rust this causes can have a big impact on machinery, as well as

golf carts. Add to this the fact we are awaiting a new maintenance building. For the time being all main equipment is protected from the elements via weatherproof covers."

Smaller tools and materials used on the course are stored in an old water tower building located opposite the car park. This building dates back to the 18th Century and is listed, but for the time being it is doubling up as a shed.

"With just three staff there is only so much we can achieve," said Mark. "But fortunately I can rely on my two experienced assistants, who can perform all tasks and in all weathers."

Steve Murley, 64, has worked at the course since 1995 and he therefore possesses an in-depth knowledge of the site.

Continued over

### View towards the cape

### IN THE AT CAPE CORNWALL

**GREENS STAFF** 

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John Deere 2500E

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Verti-cut units

Agrokid 45HP

Flail

Machine

Mark Prisk, Head Greenkeeper

Steve Murley, Assistant

Mark Billington, Assistant

CAPE CORNWALL

Mark Billington, 46, is the youngest member of staff and is nicknamed Mark 2 to avoid confusion.

Head Greenkeeper Mark added: "One key difference here is the fact we have all-year-round growth and that means mowing fairways and rough at least once per month throughout the winter. This is invariably wet to cut and can leave an untidy finish if we don't have any respite from the rain."

Soil temperatures remain above 6°C throughout the year, making frosts rare. Mark said: "With the site being somewhat of a grass factory, much of our time is spent mowing. But thankfully the course is relatively compact, albeit with little out-of-play rough.

"Many of the banks around our tees are fairly steep and require hand cutting. To a lesser extent this also applies to our greens surrounds.

"We only have 19 bunkers and with play seldom starting much before 8.30am, it gives us time to prep the course. "From around Easter to late summer the course is busy but tails-off during late autumn and throughout winter when there are fewer visitors around."

Life in this part of Cornwall has become seasonal to a greater extent, with many of the former mining villages now consisting of second homes. Since the last tin mine closed in the mid-90s, the area has become more reliant on tourism and leisure, although agriculture has changed very little throughout that period.

#### Challenges

Greens at the course are relatively small, for example the 14th is around 200m<sup>2</sup>. This means the ability to manage wear is fundamental. Other challenges include wildlife and badgers, who have a detrimental effect on the 4th green, which adjoins open moorland and farmland. Leatherjackets have also become more of an issue since the loss of Chlorpyrifos, a problem faced by greenkeepers throughout the country. But in such a remote location, the availability of fertilisers and high quality topdressing material are a cause for concern. Topdressing is very expensive and with no supply of top quality sand in the region, the team must pay double that paid by courses in more accessible regions. This means they must either use small quantities or inferior sand.

Subs for golfers are not a large amount and the course relies heavily on the tourist season. Therefore, during summer the owners do not want the course manager doing work that is disruptive to playing conditions.

Mark said: "Fertiliser input on our greens is relatively low and organic based, while we only apply 40 tons of topdressing per year. This is an expensive commodity in Cornwall due to the costs of transporting it here, and local sands are far from ideal. The tees may receive one feed in spring, otherwise natural growth is sufficient.

"Warm and sometimes humid weather can trigger outbreaks of Dollar Spot and Fusarium at certain times of the year. This requires one, or perhaps



Water tower behind 18th green





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two, applications of fungicide. Otherwise we are relatively chemical free in our turf maintenance programs, which is a far cry from elsewhere in the UK.

"When we cut new holes, we are reminded that the depth and quality of root-zone is limited and we frequently hit rocks of granite. This may be good for drainage but surfaces can quickly dry out and growth on greens can need some encouragement at certain times of the year; being composed of meadow grass and fescue."

#### The end game

Although it was built just 27 years ago, Cape Cornwall was laid out in a manner similar to the 19th Century, due to the scarcity of land available to the designer. With bedrock so close below the surface, widespread sculpting of the landscape was impossible, and so the developers worked with what was already present.

Being perched on the cliff top, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the vistas are outstanding. Greenkeeping in this part of the world is not for the faint hearted and a far cry from the sheltered parkland courses elsewhere in the UK. At certain times it can be turf management in extreme conditions, with good playing conditions the result of an innovative greens team who are able to adapt to the challenges they face and improvise with the resources available to them.

For example, they have one machine for greens and another for tees, which I watched them adjust so it could be used to cut the surrounds.

With budgets stretched already, wages are lower than elsewhere in the country. Yet these guys were out strimming when others would call it a day. On some days it can be paradise, on others it can be Hell.

Cape Cornwall is extreme in more ways than one, but it just proves what can be produced with low input and a small staff, if they possess a positive approach and the support of an owner whose objective is to make Cape Cornwall the best it can be within a dramatic and natural environment.



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# Greenkeeping in the Jungle

eing summoned before a greens committee, cap in hand, hoping to be granted the budget for a new piece of equipment is something greenkeepers everywhere are familiar with.

Now imagine it's not a greens committee you have to convince, but the president of an African nation, who is revered by his subjects as a living God.

He speaks French, as he was raised when his country was under the protectorate of that European nation, but your grasp of the language is rudimentary at best. Instead you communicate through his right-hand man, a vizier of sorts, who doesn't have the same enthusiasm for the sport as his benefactor.

And even if you are successful, it'll be a year before the equipment arrives. Not much good when you've got a European Tour event coming your way in a few months.

This was the task facing Tony Gadd, recipient of BIGGA Life Membership at BTME 2017, who in 1982 took responsibility for the maintenance of the Ivory Coast's first golf course.

The 31-year-old had been offered a position in Yamoussoukro, recently-proclaimed capital of the West African republic, and he and his wife had taken the plunge. Tony, who is now course manager at Barton-on-Sea in Hampshire, said: "My wife, Sheri, was just finishing up her degree at university and I said to her, 'Have you ever heard of a place called Yomoussoukro?' I explained what was going on and we decided we didn't want to miss the opportunity.

"A couple of weeks later and we were sat in the airport with two suitcases, which was basically our life, with no idea what was in front of us."

Felix Houphouet-Boigny was the Ivory Coast's founding president, having been in charge since the country's independence from France in 1960. He wanted to encourage European tourism and decided golf was an option, despite there being no courses in the country.

He made his hometown, Yamoussoukro, the nation's capital and enlisted Welsh course designer Dave Thomas to construct a world-class championship course within the city limits.

Houphouet-Boigny had big plans for his country and he ordered a number of other projects designed

#### Above: President Houphouet Boigny at the Ivory

to make Yamoussoukro the new cultural centre of the Ivory Coast. He commissioned the construction of the Basilica Notre Dame de la Paix, reputed to be the largest church in the world, and in one fell swoop managed to double the national debt.

'A couple of weeks later and we were sat in the airport with two suitcases, which was basically our life, with no idea what was in front of us.' 'I loved my time out there. It made me a better greenkeeper in many ways.'

But he was also well-loved by the population, who called him 'Le Vieux' – The Old Man – and in addition to making attempts to boost the Ivorian economy, he also sought to ensure every child had access to education.

Arriving in June 1982, Tony and Sheri were shown around a newly constructed hotel complex and a bungalow, which was to become home for the next four years. The entire estate was stunningly beautiful, in contrast to elsewhere in the country, where the majority of people lived in mud huts with no running water or electricity.

On paper the Ivory Coast was very wealthy due to exports of pineapple and avocado, but Tony said: "Outside of the cities the residents lived in mud huts, keen to retain their tribal heritage. There was no pumped water, no electricity and it was quite a culture shock, when you think of the money that was in the country.

"I did feel a built guilty about that. There was a guard on the lakes all day, every day, protecting the fish and the crocodiles, and the locals would try to fish there. I felt guilty they were being prevented from doing so and I would turn a blind eye if the guard fell asleep, which they often did.

"It was all about adapting to their way of life, and you would get so much respect if you did."

But for a young couple in a new country, being assigned four bodyguards was a culture shock.

So too was the knowledge that crocodiles, which could be found warming themselves in bunkers on the course, had been made sacred by the president.

Above: Sacred

Right: One

And when the time came to remove those sacred croeodiles, the man whose business it was to do so arrived at the course on a push bike. He waded into the water up to his waist and caused a ruckus to attract the beast. Then he bound the crocodile's mouth and strapped the animal to his bike, before cycling away with it.

The construction team of Le President Club's course had chosen the greenkeeping staff, numbering 12. Six were from Mali, two from Benin, one from Burkina Faso and the rest were Ivorian. Just one spoke English, deputy head greenkeeper Bala Keita. 'There was a guard on the lakes all day, every day, protecting the fish and the crocodiles, and the locals would try to fish there. I felt guilty they were being prevented from doing so and I would turn a blind eye if the guard fell asleep, which they often did.' GREENKEEPING IN THE JUNGLE

Left: The Gadds'

Below: Staff at

**GREENKEEPING IN THE JUNGLE** 

Tony said: "I was very fortunate that they had worked with Dave Thomas and the construction crew, as it meant they had a surprisingly good grasp of golf course preparation.

La La

"I would spend time with Bala and he would pass on to the team what I would expect of them, and what the president expected of me."

During his time in Africa Tony encountered just two other trained greenkeepers. One was Frenchman Francois Barron, who was put in charge of Ivoire Golf Club, which was to be the Ivory Coast's second course.

"He only had a basic greenkeeping knowledge, but he was good with machinery," said Tony.

The other was an American, but he failed to adapt to the culture, refusing to even attempt to learn the language, and returned home after just a few weeks.

For the most part, Tony was on his own. He said: "It was a matter of learning as you went along. The key is to analyse everything, and I had to analyse all that we did to reap the best from the limited resources we had.

"That's still reflected hugely in my style here at Barton-on-Sea as I keep a record of everything. I always refer back to other records, such as weather. "That comes from my time in Africa, when we had to make do with whatever we could get."

The machinery used was all Jacobsen, imported through France and with no back up. Spares were available but would take months to arrive and so a stock of basic items such as bottom blades, bearings and filters were kept in reserve. Any other pieces that could not be sourced had to be made on site; a process they referred to as the Africanisation of machinery.

"When I went to the presidential palace I would have to go with a good reason," said Tony. "If I was asking for new machinery, I would be OK if I could get in front of the president. But if I had to speak to his adviser, a Frenchman called Noel, it was more difficult to persuade him to let money go.

"If I wanted a new greens machine it would take more than a year to go through all the protocol. Then if equipment broke and we didn't have spares, we would have to make do and craft our own solution. 'It was a matter of learning as you went along. The key is to analyse everything, and I had to analyse everything I did to reap the best from the limited resources we had. That's still reflected hugely in my style here at Barton-on-Sea as I keep a record of everything. I always refer back to other records, such as weather. That comes from my time in Africa, when we would have to make do with whatever we could get." "Even today, if I think we can make something that will suffice, we will do it."

It was an approach that seemingly bred success, as the venue was a regular host on the European Tour's Safari Tour, played each February and contested by players including future Majors winners Curtis Strange, Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam.

In the searing heat of equatorial Africa, where temperatures rarely drop below 25°C, irrigation was key. The system was installed by Watermation, and with two lakes on site, sourcing water wasn't a problem.

A syringe cycle cooled the grass around midday, but when the system broke they could not afford to wait weeks for parts to arrive, and so a local engineer would have to fabricate replacements, using the original as a copy.

"Keeping the system running was probably the biggest nightmare of the job," said Tony. "The system used on-course satellites, each controlling six holes. These were a metal structure holding a low voltage wiring and boards.

"Bearing in mind we were in the tropics, with distinct wet and dry seasons, high temperatures and humidity are the perfect recipe for storms. Lighting and irrigation satellites were not made for each other and on many occasions I found everything inside melted beyond recognition."

So when weekends off came around, the chance to relax and see the country were welcomed. Days off would be spent visiting the rainforests, the beaches of Grand Bassam, the mountains of Man or the surrounding countries.

An expedition to Timbuktu failed due to a sand storm, while a trip to a wildlife reserve resulted in them being stranded for two days.

"We had gone out with a French guy who said he would drive us," Tony explained. "He went through a stream that was way too deep and we got stuck. He decided he was going to walk for help but we stayed with the truck.



#### IN THE SHED YAMOUSSOUKRO

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**GREENKEEPING IN THE JUNGLE** 





**Continued** over

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"We had just the sandwiches we had taken with us to eat and it was two days before we were found. You're supposed to sign in and sign out of these game reserves, so they know who is there, but they don't check.

On other weekends the staff would be taken to a country retreat called Koso. Tony added: "The menu for dinner would only have two things on it, lake fish or lobster. I have memories of just sitting there, sheltering from the sun, when you couldn't hear a thing other than animals in the jungle, and there was not a care in the world."

Eventually though, the couple's time in the Ivory Coast drew to a close. Having grown friendly with the president's personal physician, Tony learned that the health of the country's founding ruler was declining, and his passing would lead to political instability within the country. Sure enough, within nine years of Houphouet-Boigny's death, Ivory Coast was embroiled in a civil war.

A sport played almost exclusively by doctors, lecturers and businessmen, golf was cast aside during the turmoil, and today there remains only two courses in the country.

Houphouet-Boigny's vision of a brighter country through sport has paid off in other ways however, with the nation's football team twice achieving success by winning the African Cup of Nations.

Tony left Africa behind, moving to central France to oversee the construction of Golf de Mezerrac, a nine-hole course being developed by a doctor he met in Ivory Coast. Desert heat and crocodiles were replaced with mountain streams and cowbells.

He then moved on to Germany for four years, before returning to the UK and taking up his position as course manager at Barton-on-Sea.

But Tony looks back on his African adventure fondly, and said: "I loved my time out there. It made me a better greenkeeper in many ways. There were lots of times after that when Sheri and I thought about packing up and travelling again. I told my deputy here at Barton that if an opportunity comes along that makes you think, look at it very seriously because it could be the chance of a lifetime.

"I can remember coming home at the end of the day and sitting in the air-conditioned bungalow, working out ways I could get around problems on the course.

"They were good times."

'We had just the sandwiches we had taken with us to eat and it was two days before we were found. You're supposed to sign in and sign out of these game reserves, so they know who is there, but they don't check.'

Below: Staff party and,

througha game reserve

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below, struggling

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# The fairest of them all?

KARL HANSELL, BIGGA

n the United Kingdom, this is as remote as greenkeeping gets. Just 3 square miles in size, Fair Isle has a population of less than 60 hardy residents.

Twenty-four miles north east of Shetland, and 27 miles to the southwest of Orkney, this is the UK's most remote inhabited island.

Legend has it the Vikings gave the island its name as it provided safe haven for them on their journeys around the north of the British Isles.

These days the island is home to 1,200 sheep, 20,000 puffins and Saratoga Springs, New York, artist Tommy Hyndman.

Tommy has the distinction of being proprietor, club manager and head greenkeeper at the Fair Isle Lighthouse Keepers' Golf Course, surely the most remote golf course in the United Kingdom. "Back in America I golfed twice a year at most," said Tommy, who moved to the island with his son, Henry.

"When I moved here I distinctly remember being interviewed by the press and I said 'Well I am not the type of American that moves to Scotland to drink whisky and play golf'. Well, I like Scotch now and I own a golf course, so it's funny how things turn out'."

A golf course had been a fixture of the island, having been introduced by the lighthouse keepers who kept passing ships safe and needed a traditional pastime for their days off. The lighthouse keepers used broomsticks and steamed pudding tins for the holes, while the grass was kept shorn by the sheep and harsh weather.

When the lighthouse became automated, the keepers left and the golf course was lost, until Tommy moved to the island in 2006.

He transformed the lighthouse into an artists' studio and set up a bed & breakfast business at Auld Haa House, built for the island's laird in the 1700s.

Visitors are birdwatchers, knitting aficionados attracted by the island's famous Fair Isle pattern and, increasingly, golfing pilgrims.



Continued over

'When I moved here I distinctly remember being interviewed by the press and I said "Well I am not the type of American that moves to Scotland to drink whisky and play golf'. Well, I like Scotch now and I own a golf course, so it's funny how things turn out".'



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Tommy reinstated the six-hole golf course, paying just £50 in rent to the National Trust each year. He mows the greens using a hand mower, but the pudding tin holes have been replaced and golf flags are now present. Fishing buoys inform golfers of the tee position.

"I'm sure this is the way that golf came into being in the beginning," said Tommy. "We are playing on the crofted land by the sea, and the sheep are all over the place. It's all very low key and fun.

"When setting up the course I first went to the island's naturalist and asked if there were any rare birds or plants that I would have to look out for. He said it would be fine, but I would need to speak to the crofter, Ian, who farmed sheep on the land. I talked to him, and he said he thought I was crazy.

"It's a spectacular course as it is laid out on a little peninsula. You could imagine if someone came up here and did the course properly, it would be stunning. But I think maybe the course is even better the way it is."

The course is kept tight, surrounded as it is on three sides by the freezing sea, where Orca have been spotted playing in the bay – another reminder of just how remote this little Scottish island actually is. Fair Isle Lighthouse Keeper's Golf Course



There is just one small store, and Fair Isle is 25 miles from the next point of land. In addition to his other roles, Tommy is also a volunteer coastguard.

In winter hurricane force winds batter the island, throwing boulders on to the greens. When spring arrives Tommy has a major job removing these rocks from the golf course.

It was in one such storm that Tommy played what has been described as the most extreme round of golf in history.

"The day before I was out photographing the huge seas," said Tommy. "Then the next day the hurricane was going just as bad and I said, 'You know what, I Top: Puffin Above: Fair Isle course map

**Right:** The island is famous for its knitting pattern





Right: Tommy Hyndman



always thought I should do some golfing in the bad weather just to be funny. I posted the video we filmed of me playing on YouTube and things went mental."

Tommy's video has since had more than 20,000 views online, while his Fair Isle blog has been viewed more than 1.2million times, attracting media attention from all over the globe.

A unique selling point that makes golf fun for the players, and an

Left: Helicopters brought visitors to the island's lighthouse

effective communications strategy have ensured that, regardless of its inaccessibility and the resources available, the course has become a resounding success.

Tommy added: "We have had so many visitors who play a lot of golf, such as people who want to play every course in Britain, and they come to play the course and enjoy it, even though it's a little more rugged than they are used to. They say 'oh man this is such a good test, of golf. Either you make your shot or you don't'."

Tommy initially moved to the island with his wife and four-year-old son Henry. The couple divorced in 2015, while Henry now attends boarding school in Shetland. But 54-year-old Tommy has stayed on the island, having fallen in love with life there.

Tommy said: "When I was starting the course up I contacted the local newspaper in Shetland and they said they wanted to do an article on me.

"After the piece came out, people started bringing things down to the Good Shepherd, which is our ferry. "Someone brought me the old Fair Isle Lighthouse Keepers trophy which they had bought in a charity shop, and I was also able to get hold of a copy of the old scorecard that they used."

But scoring up here is as changeable as the conditions. Score a four on a par 3, and Tommy will let you have it as a par – you've done pretty well considering the environment.

After the fifth hole, atop a small hill, you look down on a helicopter pad. Each player gets three balls to chip on to the landing pad, and for every one that stays within the circle, you get to take a stroke off your score. Playing here is more about fun than it is about following the Rules of Golf.

"The joy of Fair Isle is you can use any superlative to describe the island, said Tommy. "It is the most remote course, Britain's most remote inhabited island, and I guess I'm the most remote American living in Britain. But I wouldn't have it any other way.

"The golf course isn't a business, it's a heritage activity. But most importantly, it's fun." ■



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# ADVERTIG ASHBOURNE

hen Dan Waring, of Ashbourne in Derbyshire, became the inaugural winner of the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year award, a world of career development opportunities opened their doors.

Nothing more than his own hard work and dedication had taken Dan from rural Derbyshire to one of the most elite clubs in the south of France, and in this feature he recalls some of the things he learnt along the way.

Vidauban is around an hour's drive from Nice in the south of France, in the middle of a highly protected national park. Designed by Robert Trent Jones and later modified by his son, Robert Trent Jones Jr. in the 1970's, it was built with a vision to host tournaments that "would rival the Masters and U.S and British Open".

Stephen Byrne, the course manager, picked me up at the airport and I knew from the journey back to the club that the course was going to be something special. He had a clear vision and practices were in place to make it a highly exclusive and prestigious course. When I arrived and was shown around, the views and course did not disappoint.

The practices and renovation program were so harsh and heavy compared to what most golf courses would do back in the UK. I later learned Steve and his team had a very limited window between October to April for the work to be completed and to ensure the results would be seen in the summer. In addition to this, they had a five-year program to match the course to their vision and to repair some damage caused – once by forest fires in the arid environment, and secondly by boar entering the course after a breach in the boundary fence.

On my first day with the team I worked with a couple of British contractors, plus several French greenkeepers from the club, to carry out the grading on the greens. It soon turned out that there was going to be a language barrier, so communication was limited to hand gestures and charades-style animations! The rest of my time was spent doing and learning about the different aspects of the golf course, all of which I had never experienced before in my short career in the industry. This included doing stuff such as changing the holes, solid tining and repairing the greens from the grading damage.

I worked with the mechanics to see how they changed height and quality of cut on the mowers, including using grinding cylinders and bottom blades.

We also overseeded the greens with pure distinction bent grass.

For me, one of the highlights of my time in France had to be my time spent learning and shadowing one of the irrigation technicians, Olivié. In my two days under his supervision, I learnt about the



The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards are returning for 2017. For your chance to be involved, get your entries in by Friday 19 May 2017



Left: A rare look at the exclusive Vidauban course

'I later learned Steve and his team had a very limited window between October to April for the work to be completed and to ensure the results would be seen in the summer. '

Below: Dan at work

highly advanced satellites and Toro Lynx irrigation computer system, which I had never seen before – it was a mind-blowing learning curve.

After that I learnt the importance of water in such arid conditions – they even have water police!

Furthermore, they even have a rare piece of kit which few privileged courses can have – a full 18-hole sub-air ducting system. This allows air flow to be pushed up through the greens, helping to cool the surface temperature down, which can have all the difference when trying to keep alive cool-season grasses in a warm season climate. The system can also be used to vacuum the greens, helping to pump water through the soil and away from the greens. This is useful for Viduaban as in the past they have struggled with drainage, although they have recently installed new drainage through the course to help control this.

I would like to thank Chief Executive Officer Richard Sorrell, Steve and the rest of the team for making me feel so welcome in such a new environment and for giving me the opportunity to learn and experience as much as I could during my time there. I would also like to thank the staff at Viduaban for trying to speak English to me and helping me have some idea as to what they were on about!

Finally, thanks to David Cole at Reesink Turfcare and BIGGA for making all this possible. ■



## TORO STUDENT GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR ALECTURER'S

NIGEL BECKFORD, WRITTLE COLLEGE

VIEWPOINT

n the last issue we heard how Jimmy Heritage, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award winner, found his eight-week scholarship in America, which he completed with Highest Honours.

This month we speak to Writtle College course manager Nigel Beckford, who endorsed Jimmy's award application and, as a result of Jimmy winning, was invited to attend the Golf Industry Show in Orlando.

I nominated Jimmy because he always works to a high standard and even when he first started his Level 2 work-based diploma I saw great potential in him. I hope Jimmy uses every opportunity winning the award gives him to take his career to the great heights I know he is capable of.

But despite what you might expect, it is not just the winning students who get rewarded, as the endorsers get a share of the prize too. For me, this meant being whisked away to America by Toro and their UK distributor Reesink Turfcare for an all-expenses paid trip to the Golf Industry Show.

Something which quickly became apparent is the education of greenkeepers in the US is very impressive. Everyone in the room was operating at a degree-level understanding of soil and plant science. The willingness to embrace new innovative ideas is something that has always impressed me about Americans.

The interesting thing I came to realise is they are educated from high school through to university, and then they get their jobs. This leaves a big practical skills gap. Our system works the other way around, with students going to college and university while gaining their experience in employment at the same time. As a result, British greenkeepers are highly desirable to American clubs.

The visit to Tranquilo Golf Club at the Four Seasons Resort was a special day in my life as this is an astonishingly beautiful, world-renowned course.

Here we met our host, equipment manager Stephen Tucker. His knowledge was truly impressive and his take on levelling and adjusting front and rear rollers for parallel alignment to ensure the cutting unit sits level on the ground and across the whole of the rollers proved to be really interesting stuff.

His workshop was also testimony to his professionalism and regard for efficiency; with floors so shiny you could catch your reflection in them.

That evening Jimmy Heritage was flying down from Massachusetts after five weeks of intensive study and it was great to catch up!



The knowledge I gained by having the opportunity to attend GIS and enjoy the experiences provided by Toro and Reesink in Orlando will prove invaluable moving forwards in my career, allowing me to share a different understanding and perspective on turf management with my students.

It was also great to be given the opportunity to share part of Jimmy's winning experience and be there to support him.

The insight into the machinery supplier's life was truly revealing and informative, and the networking opportunities with the 'big boys' of our industry is something not to be missed. I can honestly say that everyone I met was very supportive of the education and training of our young greenkeepers, with each member of our party only too willing to talk and share their knowledge and experience. For all of that, and more, thank you!

Greenkeeping students can put themselves forward for the 2017 awards with college tutors, assessors or employers endorsing their application. All applications must be submitted online by May 19 at www.bigga.org.uk/education/ toro-student-greenkeeper-ofthe-year-award



**Below:** Jimmy Heritage and lecturer Nigel Beckford

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#### **Distributed by**





#### DR TERRY MABBETT

ield woodrush is one of the weirder weeds of managed turf. Greenkeepers and turf managers unlucky enough to find it are faced with a stubborn and hard to control weed that looks very similar to grass.

It can colonise turf like broadleaved weeds but morphological and physiological closeness to true grasses leaves these rushes little affected by proprietary selective herbicides used to control broadleaved weeds.

Anomalies abound. It is also called sweep's brush after the flower heads, which appear in April, but this is one turf weed not easily swept away. Another name is 'Good Friday grass', because Eastertide is when turf managers first see the weed as a rush of chestnut brown flower heads. The weed mostly colonises short springy turf on acidic soils.

It exploits impoverished soil low in humus and nutrients, where thatch accumulates to aggravate acidity. Under such conditions grass growth is too weak to prevent this weed from establishing. Field woodrush is traditionally regarded as a problem for turf in the wetter western and northern areas of the country on soils suffering high leaching, high acidity and low fertility.

However, field woodrush will exploit opportunities as they

#### Above:

First signs of a significant field woodrush infestation are masses of chestnut-brown flower heads on 'soilsaturated' fairways suffering delayed mowing in late March and early April. arise, including where the upper layer of soil becomes acidic due to poor drainage and over-use of acid-reaction fertilisers like ammonium sulphate.

This may even include the 'chalk-flavoured' soils north of the River Thames where I first discovered field woodrush in abundance, and much to my amazement, on a golf course in north London.

I first saw field woodrush in April as clumps of flower heads forming 'mini-roughs' across the fairway. The course in question was established a century ago on ancient common land criss-crossed by ditches and pitted with spring-fed ponds, but underlying intrinsic characters clearly remained. Fairways and greens would flood every winter and even by April some were still too wet to mow. It was these areas where field woodrush flourished and was able to grow and flower, simply because spring mowing had been delayed.



#### Above

When affected fairways are mown the ultra-coarse leaves of field woodrush may be ripped and torn rather than cleanly clipped to leave a somewhat messy-looking cut to the surface of the turf



Above:

The white flowers of heath bedstraw bloom in late May and June in place of Field Woodrush.



Recommendations for the physical removal of field woodrush should be approached with care because cut pieces of stolon can root to form new infestations.

Alternatively, you could ignore the weed and reap the benefits of having fewer casting earthworms on the surface of an inherently high acid soil. Even when it was dry enough to mow, the extreme coarseness of field woodrush foliage meant turf was torn rather than cut to leave an unsightly rough finish. This was two decades ago and I remember asking two experienced turf agronomists about the weed.

The first was based in north west England and expressed real surprise that I had found field woodrush in such abundance on a London golf course. The second was a turf weed management specialist and had been in the business since the early 1950's, working for leading companies including Murphy Chemicals. He had seen the herbicide market grow and develop from infancy and was clearly one to advise me on turf weed control.

I distinctly remember his recommendations, which came as a shock to someone who had been weaned in the heyday of herbicides and brought up to believe there was a quick chemical fix for everything. "Not in this case" said my mentor, adding how once field woodrush was established they would burn off the affected area with total herbicide, re-seed or re-turf and then rely on cultural control measures to ensure the problem did not return.

This was achieved by feeding fairways adequately to boost fertility and thicken grass swards, and by investing in high quality lime-based products to reduce acidity and create conditions less to the liking of field woodrush, without altering composition of the turf grass population.

Recommendations for the physical removal of field woodrush should be approached with care because cut pieces of stolon can root to form new infestations.

Alternatively, you could ignore the weed and reap the benefits of having fewer casting earthworms on the surface of an inherently high acid soil.

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Selective herbicide applications on turf is an essential part of the greenkeeping spring programme to ensure playing surfaces are weed free. Greenor, with its micro-emulsion, odour free formulation provides a more thorough weed kill with lower amounts of active ingredient.

But unwanted vegetation also needs to be controlled around the non-playing areas on the course. Tank mixing the glyphosate formulation Hi-Aktiv and pre-emergent residual herbicide Chikara is a powerful combination to keep these areas weed free for an extended period of time.

Where weeds are present, Hi-Aktiv's unique system improves plant uptake and will kill-off emerged unwanted vegetation, giving 36% more herbicidal activity per litre of product. Its non-irritant formulation is also well liked by operators. Chikara's active ingredient flazasulfuron provides a powerful residual activity to prevent weeds that that have not emerged to be controlled for five months or longer. The addition of a shrub bed use to the label offers effective and long-lasting weed control around amenity vegetation.

Peter Corbett, Chemical Products Manager for Rigby Taylor said: "We are delighted to offer highly cost effective solutions to help manage weed control in a range of situations. Greenor offers superb selective weed control from a single application, while Chikara, on its own or in tank mixture with Hi-Aktiv, delivers season-long weed control across a wide range of porous surfaces. This includes gravel car parks, around course furniture, along fence lines and much more." rigby taylor

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#### WHERE CAN YOU LOOK NEXT?

#### ECONOMY SPRAYERS THE ANSWER TO NSTS **LEGISLATION?**

All operators now face the prospect of getting their sprayers through the compulsory NSTS test to meet the latest round of sprayer legislation.

Those on tight budgets and hoping to avoid expensive repair and upgrade bills are trending towards purchasing a good quality economy sprayer, being sure it meets UK HSE requirements. These requirements are not the same as a European CE certification.

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As operators strive for more accuracy when applying feeds and chemicals through their sprayer, maintaining a constant nozzle height above the turf is becoming ever more important. On undulating courses this is quite a challenge for sprayer operators, unless the sprayer has a ground follow capability.

Wheeled ground follow booms are accurate, cheaper and much more reliable than electronic versions, taking away much of the challenge from the operator, and this has seen a surge in the sales of the unit in the last four months.

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# ROLLING ON UP

#### NIGEL CHURCH, RANSOMES JACOBSEN

Il greenkeepers roll their greens to produce a smoother, truer surface, perhaps without realising. Each time the greens are cut they are rolled by the action of the cutting units or mower passing over the surface.

ROLLERS

After all, it's not the cutting cylinder that leaves striping, but rather the roller that the cutting head runs on that produces the distinctive finish to finely mown surfaces.

So, it's not a question of whether to roll or not, but whether we should incorporate rolling into the maintenance programme to get the best results for our course. By changing the weight of the cutting units' rollers we can easily alter the amount of rolling action we deliver when mowing the surface.

#### **Double Cutting**

The classic way to improve the speed and presentation of the playing surface is to double cut them. Cutting twice will remove more grass and leave the sward with a truer and tighter cut, but it also doubles the amount of rolling action over the surface, increasing speed and trueness.

With modern machinery we can achieve the double cut effect by increasing the clip rate (or cuts per metre), which achieves an improved cut quality without the additional rolling effect. By separating the two activities, we gain more control over our mowing regime.

> **Left:** Smithco Tournament Ultra roller

#### **Rolling Effects**

Rolling will immediately produce a smoother, truer surface. What is perhaps less understood is that this effect will last on a green for up to 48 hours after the roll, leaving a residual effect and higher than normal speeds. Playing surface standards are therefore improved, without requiring daily use of the roller.

#### Mowing and rolling

There has been a move over the years to operating a mix of both mowers and rollers as part of the regular course maintenance programme. In hotter, drier conditions, mowing and rolling on alternate days can produce the best effect, as the stresses of daily mowing are removed, without impacting green speeds and trueness. In the autumn the roller can be used to replace daily mowing, reducing plant stress while retaining a consistent playing surface.

#### Making a comparison

There is more than one way to roll your surface, but what effects can they have, and how can we compare them? The weight and surface area data will show the ground pressure or PSI of the roller, but this is only one aspect of its rolling action.

Another way to compare different rollers is by calculating the 'roll factor'. This is done by dividing the weight of the roller by the size and number of rollers it uses.



For example, a Smithco Tournament Ultra roller weighs 528kg and has two 20cm x 91cm rollers. Therefore using the formula above we have the following:

Roll factor = 528 / (2 x (20 x 91)) = 528 / 3640 = 0.14

Now we'll look at a greens mower roller accessory such as the TR66 Roll 'n' Spike from Australian manufacturer Tru-Turf. Its units, which replace the cutting units on various tri -plex mowers, have three rollers, 6cm diameter x 56cm long, weighing 58kg and a central slicing blade. The blade assists with oxygen and moisture replenishment and also helps break surface hardness, assisting the roller in truing the surface.

Roll factor (RF) = 58 / (3 x (6x56)) = 58 / 1008 = 0.06

So the two equations above offer a clear comparison between the rolling effect of a self-propelled turf roller and a triplex mower accessory. Both of the above will produce a smoother, faster playing surface compared to a single mown pass, but other studies have shown that the self-propelled machines have a greater rolling effect, which lasts longer. Perhaps the above calculation proves why this would be the case.

When making a decision about which type of roller to go for, look at the design and calculate the rolling factor before making a decision. With the rolling factor calculated, you can review your soil type, construction and decide on the right option for your course.

#### **Rolling negatives**

So much time and effort goes into relieving compaction that it can seem surprising that anyone would then want to go out and roll the surface. But lightweight rollers are designed to flatten out surface imperfections and produce a smooth, true playing surface - the brand name 'Turf Iron' is well suited. So, it's not a question of whether to roll or not, but whether we should incorporate rolling into the maintenance programme to get the best results for our course.

Ground conditions play a big part in the effect rolling can have on the surface. Rolling on wet or saturated ground will result in compaction, so as with all tools and equipment, a sensible approach to operation is essential.

Time is also a key element as any additional activity takes time to complete and has to be fitted into a busy work schedule. An experienced operator will roll greens in about the same time as it takes a greens triple to mow them, so it's not a bad return, given the surface improvements gained by a rolling programme.

#### **Continued over**

#### Research

Professor Thomas Nikolai from Michigan State University has studied the effects of greens rolling for many years. In a study, first published in 2011, he found:

- 1. Rolling daily and mowing every other day (or less often) noticeably increased greens speed compared to daily mowing.
- 2. In 2009, the courses in Michigan and Sweden found no detectable differences in greens speed between rolling daily and mowing less often and daily rolling and mowing.
- 3. The courses in Michigan and Florida found no noticeable change in greens speed between mowing daily and alternating daily mowing and rolling.

In September 2011, Richard Windows and Henry Bechelet, while working for the STRI, published a paper for BIGGA's West Midlands section. They suggested that less aggressive surface preparations would create a more settled environment, which in turn would encourage the finer grasses.

Rolling is a significant part of this process. Richard and Henry quoted USGA research stating "rolling could be implemented as often as four times a week on sand based greens with no negative effects to the long-term health of the turf". Even with such a frequency, no compaction was evident, even after several years. The ground pressure of the rollers is very small and the action is one of smoothing rather than compacting, but they recommended regular pencil tining to prevent any perceived sealing of the surface.

#### Conclusion

Our attitude to rolling has changed over the past 20 years. Originally it was just to increase speed, but now it has become established as an essential fine turf management practice.

It is no longer a question of whether to roll or not, but more a question of how much rolling we should incorporate into the maintenance programme to get the best results for our course.

**Right:** Smithco double roller drive 7475



Above: Rollers

Even with such a frequency no compaction was evident, even after several years. The ground pressure of the rollers is very small and the action is one of smoothing rather than compacting, but they recommended regular pencil tining to prevent any perceived sealing of the surface.



#### ROLLERS

#### WHERE CAN YOU LOOK NEXT?

#### SMITHCO TOURNAMENT ULTRA LITE GREENS ROLLER

Weighing just 275kg, the Smithco Tournament Ultra Lite greens roller is the lightest riding greens roller made with dual hydraulic roller drive for superior traction and manoeuvrability.

The Ultra Lite roller is also the only roller with direct drive which does not require the chain maintenance of traditional mechanical systems. The hydraulic operation of both 8" seamless tapered steel drums eliminates slipping on steep slopes and the damage that can be caused by single drive rollers.

The Tournament Ultra Lite greens roller is for users who prefer to use lighter weight rollers to avoid any potential compaction issues. At 275kg, it's the lightest roller in its class, while still providing dual drive propulsion for extra traction. Powered by a 9hp Honda Commercial Duty engine with a tight turning radius of just over 10 feet, the Ultra Lite delivers on all fronts.

"Rolling our greens used to be a two-man job for us," said Stuart Langhorne, course manager at Beaconsfield. "One person would sit on the roller and another would cane or blow behind him. The Smithco roller doesn't drop anything: it almost hoovers the greens. The roller uses a dual drive system, so we're able to drive into the rough, spin the rollers off and completely clean them before returning to the greens. I used the roller on a green just two days after we put 80-tonnes of sand on while hollow coring, and I didn't have to cane or blow the greens which is unheard of."



#### **TRU-TURF ROLLERS**

After 30 years of supplying Tru-Turf rollers to the golf industry, rolling greens at many US and UK Opens, President Cups, Ryder Cups and Club Events across the globe, Tru-Turf continue to lead the development of greens rolling.

The Tru-Turf roller is the only roller ever endorsed by the US PGA and used throughout the majority of their events is the Tru-Turf roller. Why? Minimum crease lining on the greens using shorter rollers which give better contour following and a more even ground pressure, particularly on undulating greens.

The USPGA has tested and proven that the grass rebound from am hours to pm hours is kept to less than 6". Professionals and golfers cannot detect this difference, and the greens are more consistent throughout the day using a Tru-Turf Greens Roller. It is also very important to keep weight off greens. Compaction, whether by natural conditions or via mechanical devices, is always a concern for course managers.

The patented "3 Offset Roller" principal of the Tru-Turf roller system trues the surface without exacerbating imperfections the way single roller machines do as they travel across a surface.

In 2017 Tru-Turf introduce the R50-11, taking rolling to an even higher standard with features including self-cleaning smoothing rollers in each head by way of a patented rubber nodule cleaning system and a range of quick fit attachments including slitter, spiker and brush which can be fitted and removed in seconds with no tools required.

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#### **North East**



AROUND THE GREEN

Jack Hetherington ♥ @jack2heff jack87heff@ gmail.com

Work is underway, not only on the course but also planning our events for 2017. Our spring tournament was held on 26 April at Bamburgh Castle and results will be in the June GI.

We have an education day arranged on 10 May at Alnmouth so look out for details on Facebook, Twitter and Email.

#### WHAT'S ON

SEE OUR NEW EVENTS PAGE FOR DETAILS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR REGION Email your news to Karl @bigga.co.uk



#### Regional Administrator

Sandra Raper 07866 366966 | 🈏 @BIGGANorthReg sandra@bigga.co.uk

Congratulations to Chloe Gallagher of Ramside Hall for being selected for The Open Support Team and we all wish Paul Walton the very best for his trip to TPC Sawgrass this month.

#### **North West**



Steve Hemsley ✓ @BIGGANorthWest steven.hemsley1@ ntlworld.com

#### S Hope you all had a great Easter. We welcomed a new member to our family in 'Pup Hemsley' who will no doubt be GI Dog On Course in the future.

You should all be aware of the busy calendar of events arranged for 2017/18, if you haven't seen the events leaflet then please get in touch and we will arrange to send a copy to you. We will include the results from 27 April at Hesketh in our next report.



Support would be greatly appreciated for the Campey Pro Am at Hart Common on 11 May and our summer tournament will be at Northenden on 11 July.

We look forward to seeing you at these events.



#### Cleveland



Anthony McGeough amcgeough@ aol.com

Spring has been flirting with Richmond this last couple of weeks and in our haste to get out on the course and shape up the big green monster from its winter slumber, my deputy Iain and myself encountered some serious PPE injuries! That's right, we were both hurt by our ear defenders. In trying to put them on in a rush I ended up with a cut eye, and Iain a black eye doing the same within a week of each other. Straight to the hardware store for ear plugs!

By the time this goes to print, Richmond will have two new employees in Andy Burn and Ashley Ryan. We have been working with the On Course Foundation for a couple of years and we are pleased to confirm that these two ex-servicemen will be joining our ranks, both on a part time basis. I hope to increase the work we do with the Foundation and help provide a gateway into greenkeeping for more ex-servicemen. For more information on the On Course Foundation you can contact Mark.Schorah@ oncoursefoundation.com

Congratulations to Dave Jobey on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Bishop Auckland. This year's spring tournament is to be held at Cleveland GC on Tuesday 9 May. Due to being very busy in the coming months, we have been given a 11.30am tee off time with 16 places being reserved, so get in early. Usual fare of bacon and coffee on arrival followed by a two course meal. The cost is the usual £16. The day is sponsored by Lloyds.

Progress is being made on the foot golf front so keep up practicing your skills. As soon as we get a solid date and venue we will let you all know.

#### Northern



**Rob Gee** ♥ @Rob\_Grn robgee.03@ blueyonder.co.uk

Hi everyone, hope everyone is enjoying the warm, sunny conditions we are experiencing, lets hope it says with us for the next six months!

Our first golf event of the year took place at Sandburn Hall. There was a





Phil Dick, Simon Rothwel

good turnout in numbers. Glad to see guys making the time to attend!

Thanks to all the Northern Section sponsors who support the section.

#### Sheffield



Wayne Lazenby ♥ @SheffieldBigga wlazenby5 @gmail.com

Congratulations to Michael Burgin from Normanby Hall on being chosen for the Open Support Team at Royal Birkdale.

Richard Bee of Birley Park is on the Open qualifying quest. This could be tough but I'm sure the thought of his boss raking a bunker after him will spur him on, so good luck Richard.

See the Upcoming Events page for details of upcoming events. Contact Neil Peters to book a place.

Rob Acheson of Worksop has taken delivery of two brand new 2500e John Deere greens mowers. All the lads look very smart in their new coats.

#### SECTION NEWS

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN YOUR SECTION

Email your news to Karl @bigga.co.uk



#### **North Wales**



Craig Wheeler © @BIGGANorthWales craig.wheeler@ btinternet.com

Congratulations to Darren Anderson MG on completing 25 years at Aberdovey.

Thank you to everyone who attended and presented at the education seminar at Northop. It was a great turn out for a very interesting line up thanks to our section committee, in particular Rhys Butler for arranging such good speakers.

Look out for the February 2018 date in our next report. The booking form for the 2017 golf dates has been sent out by email and social media so if you haven't got a copy please make sure we have an email address for you at BIGGA HQ or join our Facebook page to make sure you don't miss out on any opportunities. The dates for the golf days are 23 August at Prenton and 23 November at North Wales.

We will update you on who won the tournament at Prestatyn on 27 April in the next report.

### **AROUND THE GREEN** SCOTLAND & N. IRELAND



Chairman **Stuart Ferguson MG** 07947 859062 stuferg@btinternet.com



#### **Regional Administrator**

John Young 07776 242120 johnyoung@bigga.co.uk



# **ROUND THE GREEN**

#### Central



**Craig Boath** У @CraigBoath cboath@carnoustie golflinks.co.uk

Thomas Nikolai from Michigan State University was up in St Andrews and Carnoustie to perform a spike study on a fine fescue putting green. The results would be included in a 2-year study Thomas is performing at the request of the USGA with Dr Doug Karcher, University of Arkansas. They have performed similar studies on courses in the USA and several in Europe.



#### WHAT'S ON

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Visit the Newsdesk section of this magazine to read about the Fife Golf Trust's success in achieving certification from the GEO.

At the time of writing this we were just about to hold our spring outing. Results to follow next month.

All our thoughts and best wishes are with our Section Chairman Shaun Anderson. Keep fighting Shaun!

This month's blog spotlight is on Crail Golf Society, with Courses Manager Bob Meikle telling us what goes on in the East Neuk of Fife. Visit http:// crailgreenkeepersblog.blogspot.co.uk/.

#### East



Alan Campbell 🖌 @BIGGA ES greenkeeper@ alancampbell. demon.co.uk

The East Section's spring outing was held at a wonderfully presented Gullane Number 2 on a glorious sunny day. A full field took part in a keenly

contested competition and the winners were: Kevin Brunton (trade), Keith Burgon (scratch), Ross Glendinning (1st class) and Paul Armour (2nd class). The nearest the pin prizes were won by Shaun Cunningham and Graeme Davidson, and the longest drive was won by Blair Shearer.

As mentioned in last month's magazine a presentation was made to Jim Darling following his retirement after a long career in golf. Many thanks go to the captain, committee, greens and catering staff at Gullane for hosting the event and our patrons for continued support.



The East Section will be holding the Willie Woods 4 ball event at Peebles Golf Club on Tuesday 16 May. If you haven't received an entry form, they are available on the East Section page of the BIGGA Scottish Region website.

Remember if you have any questions, suggestions or articles you would like to see published, please contact any member of your committee. We particularly welcome blogs, video diaries etc that we can publish online. Looking forward to hearing from you.

#### North



**Neil Sadler** gkneil@sky.com

I have just returned from a family holiday to Doha and Dubai, where I was very fortunate to get a guided tour of the Els Course in Sports City by Course Manager John Wilcox. It was a really fascinating tour of the course and the compound. We chatted about the different problems of our climates and the challenges they posed, but at the end of the day we are trying to achieve the same end goal, a golf course that can be enjoyed by all. After my tour I was able to play the course. With greens being cut at 2.5mm, they are like upturned saucers. It was a very good test of golf, not to mention the 40° heat!

We would like to wish Mark Campbell all the very best. He is leaving Fortrose and Rosemarkie and going to Nuremberg in Germany. Also on the move is David Merchant, who is leaving Murcar and joining the team at Deeside. So good luck at your new courses chaps.

An education day is being held on 9 May at 11.45am at Deeside. The day will take a look at the big flood of 2015. Neil McLaughlin will give a presentation on the damage that was caused and planning for the future. This will be followed by a course walk. Also speaking on the day is Rob Hogarth, he will be speaking about his time at Remedy Oak.

Both will be very interesting topics with two very good speakers, so it is worth putting this in your diaries. To book your place send an email to Alister Matheson at alistermatheson@yahoo.co.uk

In next month's article we will have the results from our first outing of the year.

#### SECTION NEWS

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#### West

Sc Sc he @c

Scott Davidson @BiggaWest headgreenkeeper @cathcartcastle.net

'Remember if you have any questions, suggestions or articles you would like to see published, please contact any member of your committee.'



### **AROUND THE GREEN** SOUTH EAST



Surrey

Peter Smith Pds1@btinternet. com.

Chairman

Stephen Alabaster

🎔 @JacUKEast

salabaster@tip.

textron.com

This month we held the Surrey Section

spring tournament at St George's Hill.

Built in 1911 and designed by Harry

to playing here. The course nor the

weather did not let us down. The M25

delayed. Still, a few shuffles on the tee

did, however, and quite a few of us were

Colt, we were all looking forward

and most of us got away on time.



#### Regional Administrator

**Clive Osgood** 07841 948410 cliveosgood@ yahoo.co.uk

Not only was the course fantastic to play, we were also very well looked after in the clubhouse afterwards.

It would be very nice if we can come back and see the changes in the next few years.

The next free third Thursday seminar is being given by John Ross and the next Surrey Section event will be held at Effingham Golf Club on 7 June. Please make sure you get booked early as this will be a popular venue!

The Surrey Bowl has been drawn, please go to the Facebook page to see where you are. Games must be played by the stipulated dates and any outstanding payments must be given to Roger Tydeman as soon as possible.

#### Kent



Ben Adams 🖉 @BIGGAKent ben.adams@ talktalk.net

At last spring is here, and what wonderful weather Kent has been having. This was especially the case for our first golf event of the year. We had a great turnout, in fact 56 players in total, all keen to take on the beautiful course at Littlestone. I think all would agree the greens were exceptional, some of the best I have played on. It is just a shame my putting wasn't!

I would like to thank Malcolm Grand, Malloy Parks and their team for hosting us and producing a wonderful golf course, including laying on the great weather! The field produced some great golf with a tie for first place, scoring 37 points. Through countback Darren Burton, Royal Cinque Ports, was declared the winner. Second was Connor Lang, London Club, and third went to Joe Curtis, Knole Park, with 36 points. Our trade winner with 36 points went to Michael Fance, Farmura.

#### WHAT'S ON SEE OUR NEW

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Karl @bigga.co.uk



**Kerry Phillips** 07715 672568 🔰 @BiggaKerry kerry@bigga.co.uk

Our next event on the calendar is our second golf day of the year. This will be at Sundridge Park on 24 May. So unless you are either volunteering or playing in the Pro-Am at Wentworth that day, we hope to see as many of you there as our first golf event. But please let me know ASAP as places are limited, either via our Facebook page or by returning our email invite.

I would like to finish with saying thank you again to all our sponsors for supporting our section and a thank you to the rest of the Kent Section Board. Don't forget to get involved and join our Facebook page, BIGGA Kent Section, if you haven't already.

#### East Anglia



**Mick Lathrope** 🖉 @BIGGAEastAnglia lil.lathrope@ ntlworld.com

#### **Essex**



🕑 @essexbigga ian.wood@ romfordgolfclub. co.uk

I am fresh from a greens meeting where I was informed the course is dreadful and we are doing it all wrong, so there could be more exciting news for someone to write about soon.

The Channels Golf Day last month saw an excellent turn out with almost 60 enjoying great hospitality. Our thanks go to Channels for hosting the day and to Michael Fance for his organisation. Results: nearest the pin, Nick Hill, Rob Galley, Tom Smith, Cassidy Steffans; longest drive, Jordan Hill. Trade: 1st, Steve Bush, 36pts; 2nd, Steve Alabaster, 36pts. Guests: 1st, Paul Davies, 35pts; 2nd, Alex Baker 35pts; 3rd, Chris

# **ROUND THE GREEN**

There was a full field of 40 players from the section and as well as the new trophy there was also a place in the BIGGA National Tournament as Surrey representative up for grabs. Results: 1st, Kraig Easton, West Surrey, 40pts; 2nd, Tim Lobb, St George's Hill, 37pts; 3rd, David Warner, 36pts; longest drive, John McPherson; nearest the pin, Greg Richardson.

After the meal we had a talk given by Tim Lobb and Chris Gosden on improvements to the course, including new bunkers and heather regeneration. They also explained their intentions for the next five years. We would like to thank Chris and his team for a marvelous day.



Kraig Easton collecting his trophy from Chris Gosden, course manager at St George's Hill

Evans, 35pts. BIGGA members: 1st, Mark Phipps-Jones, 41pts; 2nd, Tom Smith, 39pts; 3rd, Mike Bartlett, 37pts.

The raffle was well supported with a golf bag donated by Wayne from CMW. A donation of £60 from the proceeds was made to the captains' charity for the year, the Essex Air Ambulance.

A special presentation was made to Dougie Fernie to mark his retirement.

Please keep your eyes open for details of our next golf day on Wednesday 7 June at Gosfield Lake. Information will be published online. If you wish to receive text updates please ensure your membership details are up-to-date.

#### London



Kevin O'Neil ♥ @kevodale76 londonsection@ bigga.co.uk \_\_\_\_

As the great drought of 2017 continues, conditions are becoming increasingly dry and bouncy. It's certainly bringing challenges we're not normally used too this time of year and the irrigation systems are getting a good early season workout. The first golf tournament of the year will be held at The Centurion Club on 23 May. This event will also serve as the qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship. For entry details see the main BIGGA website or London Facebook page.

The summer golf day will be held at The Buckinghamshire on 29 August, entry details to follow.

Congratulations to section members Jason Shepherd, Charlie Simper, Phil Slater and Harry Wells who have made it on to the support team for the BMW PGA Championships at Wentworth. Have a good week fellas.

Also Andy Garland, course manager at The Centurion Club, is looking for volunteers for the European Tour Golf Sixes event being held at the venue. Anyone interested please contact Andy direct - AGarland@centurionclub.co.uk

#### Sussex



Chris Humphrey ♥ @CtcChris chris@collierturf-care.co.uk

The latest Sussex Turf Club was held on 22 March at Mid Sussex. There was

#### SECTION NEWS

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN YOUR SECTION Email your news to Karl @bigga.co.uk a good turn out of greenkeepers from all across Sussex to hear presentations on the theme "Focus on Plant Health". Four excellent guest speakers gave informative talks on subjects such as, getting the most from your irrigation, microbial biology, the importance of sharp cutting blades and the positives of applying for the BIGGA/Bernhard trip to America.

Thanks to all the speakers for their presentations and to Mid Sussex for their generous hospitality. Look out for details of the next Turf Club.

By the time this comes to print we will just have had our spring tournament at Littlehampton. A full report will be in next month's magazine.

The summer tournament is on 29 June at Haywards Heath, put the date in your diary. Please contact George Morley at sussexsection@bigga.co.uk to book your place.

If you have anything of interest for around the green please give me a call on 07912 669457.

**AROUND THE GREEN** 



### AROUND THE GREEN SOUTH WEST & S. WALES



#### Chairman

Steve Lloyd 07578 276082 | 🎔 @GreensMalvern coursemanager @theworcestershire golfclub.co.uk



#### **Regional Administrator**

Tracey Walker 07841 948110 | 🈏 @biggaswsw tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk

#### South West



**Seb Cavilla** ♥ @BiggaSouthwest sebcavilla@ googlemail.com

Beware the false spring! How many times have we heard that and how many times has it turned out to be true? Glorious days of sunshine with overnight frosts are certainly presenting challenges to us all.

I am loving how dry it has been after months of diverting traffic and not being able to get out there and present the course. The lack of growth means we have coped with the short weeks over Easter etc.

We had a fantastic day for our joint spring conference at Celtic Manor. It proved to be a very successful event with fantastic speakers. For those of you that couldn't make it, be sure to pencil it in to your diary for next year.

Coming up in the section we have some exciting turf clubs and golf fixtures going in the diary, which will be in fixture cards being sent out very soon!

#### **South Coast**



Mike Cartwright @mikehgc mikecartwright1 @hotmail.co.uk

Hi all. I'm sure we are all now starting to run at full speed ahead and are starting to rediscover the joys of being busy. As well as being busy at work, it is also a busy time for our section.

The spring tournament was played at the pristine Parkstone. I wasn't able to make it, but by all accounts a superb day was had. Thanks to Grant Peters and the great team at Parkstone for presenting the course in great condition. Grant also held an



impromptu course walk for some of the non-playing greenkeepers. Results: 1st, Tom Kelly, MJ Abbots, 45pts; 2nd, Lois Stevenson, Swanmore, 41pts; 3rd, Steve Alabaster, TH White, 40pts; Simon Justice, Wellow, 40pts. I'd have been gutted, 40pts and not a sniff!!

We also have a couple of things of interest coming up in our section. The first is the Turf Club visit to the Ageas Bowl. The Ageas is a brand new course that will be opening this year and the new manager, Andy Brown, will be conducting a course walk.

I know a couple of greenkeepers who have been there since day one so it'll be good to hear all about the highs and lows of a new build. If you'd like to book a place contact southcoastsection@bigga. co.uk Places are limited so be quick.

The second item is the annual Secretaries v Greenkeepers match. Yours truly has been made captain this year (not sure how as I've played two and lost two) and I really fancy experiencing the sweet taste of victory!

#### WHAT'S ON SEE OUR NEW

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Email your news to Karl @bigga.co.uk Hopefully we should have a team put together by the time this report comes out, but if you're interested then please get in touch with me on mikecartwright1@hotmail.co.uk or 07771 591791.

#### **South Wales**



Andrew Hatcher ♥ @BIGGASouthWales andrewhatcher1@ msn.com

We had a great attendance at our spring seminar, with some great speakers. First up, Jake Waite from Celtic Manor covered health & safety, including site specific assessments, protection from vibration and respiratory exposure and many other interesting topics.

Next up was a history of the Old Tom Morris course Askernish. Gordon Irvine explained how in 2005 a group of locals decided that they wanted their course





back and set to work restoring this 'lost' course. It is quite amazing what can be achieved with very little equipment.

We were also updated on current legislation for wash down facilities and fuel tank regulations by Matthew Mears of the Highspeed group.

Alan Able updated us on pesticide regulations - who thought spraying was easy? He spoke about the Amenity Forum and environmentally friendly use of pesticides.

Steve Lloyd stood in last minute to inform us about the projects undertaken at the Worcestershire, while Phil Chiverton spoke about how The Grove was rescued by the Levy brothers in 1996 and the preparation leading to the British Masters in 2016.

I would like to thank all the guest speakers and Celtic Manor for the excellent hospitality. I hope this can be a regular event at this venue. Thanks also to all who attended from the South Wales & South West Section. It was also great to see Angus from the Belfry.

Congratulation to Stuart Adams who is leaving Haverfordwest to become course manager at Newbold Comyn. Good luck for the future.

Upcoming events include the Rigby Taylor Challenge, to be held on 10 August at Ross on Wye and the summer golf day on 24 August at Pennard.

#### **Devon & Cornwall**



У @buckaroo14 nrogers@countrywidefarmers.co.uk

Chairman Jason Brookes has asked if anybody is interested in taking a place on the committee, could they please contact him.

If you have any interesting stories or pictures you would like to share with the section, please forward on to me.

#### NEW MEMBERS

SCOTLAND & NORTH	IERN IRELAND
Calum Morris	DHGK – Maverston
Mark Devlin	GK – Williamwood
Miguel Rodriguez	GK – Williamwood
Stuart Lorimer	AGK – Hon Company of Edinburgh Golfers
NORTHERN	
Marc Hudson	DHGK – Rother Valley
Alastair Cuthbert	GK – Astbury
Dale Lindley	GK – Rother Valley
Jamie Searby	GK – Low Laithes
Karrhys Woodcock	GK – Cleckheaton & District

GK - West Lancashire

GK - Cottingham Parks

AGK – Waltham Windmill

GK – West Lancashire

AGK – Low Laithes

AGK – Ellesmere

AGK – Norwood Park
AGK – Waltham Windmill
Affiliate – Kubota (UK)
GK – Dunstable Downs
GK – Brocton Hall
GK – Brocton Hall
AGK – Rushcliffe

#### SOUTH EAST

Lewis Mayles

Robert Chilcott

Thomas Snow

Fred Moiser

Adam Lennox

Alistair Bagnall

Tom Stidder	Affiliate – Toro
Benjamin Goscomb	GK – Basingstoke
Scott Kent	GK – Mitcham
Matthew Simpson	AGK – Felixstowe Ferry

#### SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

Rod Davis	CM – Playgolf Bournemouth
Patrick Hobbs	GK – Staddon Heights
Paul Jenkins	GK – Kendleshire (The)
Simon Pitt	GK – The Vale Resort
Jonathan Thomas	HGK – Wernddu
Jason Manley	HGM – Ambienza Ltd
James Rendell	AGK – Mullion
Michael Jones	AGK – Llanishen

INTERNATIONAL	
Rene Anderson	HGK – Himmelbjerg
Peter Rappoccio Sr.	Concord CC
Victor Wood	Royal Spanish Golf Federation
Francesc Molne	Universidad Politecnica (Madrid)

# AROUND THE GREEN CENTRAL ENGLAND



Chairman Matthew Nutter 07775 537015 | 🎽 @mattnutt Mattnutter05@aol.com



#### **Regional Administrator**

Roger Butler 07525 593359 | 🈏 @BIGGAcentraleng roger@bigga.co.uk

#### BB&O



**Matt Nutter** bbosecretary@gmail. com

We are still waiting on a couple of venues to confirm dates for later in the year, however on 12 July we will be hosting the summer golf day at Winterhill Golf Club, full details to follow.

A big thanks to everybody that attended the Camberley Heath golf day and to all of those who were at Sand Martins for the Lister Wilder seminar. Results and images will be posted in the

next magazine. Throughout 2017 we will be announcing

further events including a trip to Tillers Turf in September, a visit to the new Farol depot in Thame and also a potential visit to Iceland in July. A big thanks to Ben Kebby for really driving the education within the section. If you have any topics you would like to see at seminars in the future then please speak to Ben.

Good luck to Dominick Lewis in his new job at Hadley Wood, unfortunately Dom will no longer be on the BB&O Committee but we would like to thank him for all his work over the years and we wish him well.

#### **Mid Anglia**



**Darren Mugford** d.mugford@ rigbytaylor.com

Our first event of the season is our spring golf day at Mid Herts on 10 May and is the qualifier for the BIGGA National tournament.

#### Midland



Dave Collins greendave2004 @hotmail.co.uk

In July we are looking to have another footgolf competition, so watch out for details coming soon.

In August we are hoping to visit JCB, so watch out for that. And our friends at Countrywide will be sponsoring a November seminar with speakers and venue to be confirmed.

If there's enough interest we are considering a fishing competition later in the year.

Contact me if you are interested in taking part in the football match against East Midlands or if you would be interested in taking part in a fishing competition. Call Gary Watkins on 07738 199374 if you would be interested in playing in a cricket match.

Please send your photo in to us for the 2018 calendar. Send them to greendave2004@hotmail.co.uk and we can assess them and put the best ones in next year's calendar.

On a final note, please if anyone is stressed out or suffering, don't do it alone, talk to one of us or call Roger Butler. Help is out there so please use it.

#### **East of England**



The section's spring golf event is to be held at Ashby Decoy on 18 May. Tee off is at 1pm. Contact Bruce Hicks if you would like to play on 07931714922 or email bthicks@gmail.com. WHAT'S SEE OUR NEW EVENTS PAGE FOR DETAILS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR REGION Email your news to Karl @bigga.co.uk

#### **East Midlands**



Matt Gilks ♥ @gilksmatt gilksmatt@farol.co.uk

Everyone is now fully up and running and in some areas needing the irrigation a lot sooner than expected!

At the education day at Hinckley last month there was a Koro and Vredo seeder on demo providing the attendees with some food for thought on managing the course with a different angle. We stripped a tee and reseeded within a couple of hours, updates and pics will be emailed out soon.

Again there are many practices and management ideas that we all seem to share well within the industry. I must say that Hinckley was looking fantastic and everyone who attended was very complimentary on the condition of the course. Well done Adam and the rest of the team. Also special thanks to James Hutchinson, his ecology walk and presentation went down a storm. "How good is that?" as he'd say.

Countrywide pairs matchplay entries are submitted and matches should be underway.

A singles stableford will be held at Morley Hayes on Wednesday 10 May.

Thank you to all our sponsors for this year, we look forward to catching up at the events over the year.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS** CONTACT YOUR SECTION SECRETARY TO BOOK A PLACE

#### Scotland

North: 9 May, Deeside, education day, 11.45am

**East:** 16 May, Peebles, Willie Woods 4-ball

#### Northern

Cleveland: 9 May, Cleveland GC, spring tournament, 11.30am, £16

**Sheffield:** 15 May, Sickleholme, spring competition, 1pm tee off

North West: 23 May, Hart Common, Campey Turf Care Pro-Am

**Sheffield:** 3 July, Rotherham, summer competition

North West: 11 July, Northenden, summer tournament

North Wales: 23 August, Prenton

**Northern:** 13 July, Howley Hall, 1pm tee off, £20

Northern: 14 September, Pontefract, 1pm tee off, £20

#### **Central England**

**Mid Anglia:** 10 May, Mid Herts, spring golf day and BIGGA National qualifier, 11am tee off

East Midlands: 10 May, Morley Hayes, spring golf day

Midland: 10 May, Broadway, spring competition

**East of England:** 18 May, Ashby Decoy, spring golf day, 1pm tee off

**BB&O:** 12 July, Winter Hill, summer golf day, 10am tee off

#### South East

**Kent:** 24 May, Sundridge Park, section golf day

**Surrey:** 7 June, Effingham, section golf day

Essex: 7 June, Gosfield Lake, section golf day

Sussex: 29 June, Haywards Heath, 12 noon tee off

**Surrey:** 17 July, Sunningdale, McMillan Trophy

#### South West & South Wales

**South Wales:** 10 August, Ross on Wye, Rigby Taylor Team Challenge

South Wales: 24 August, Pennard

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS LOG IN

TO THE MEMBERS AREA OF THE BIGGA WEBSITE



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South East



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# **BUYER'S GUIDE**



#### Rain Bird 700 and 751 Series golf rotors

#### Rain Bird is celebrating the arrival of spring with a special offer for BIGGA members.

Anyone who buys four Rain Bird Eagle rotors will receive an extra one free of charge.

As irrigation systems across the country get fired up and tested in preparation for the 2017 season, this special Rain Bird Spring offer is perfectly timed.

Rain Bird Gear-Driven Rotors are engineered to efficiently manage water. With minimal maintenance requirements, worry-free performance and maximum water distribution uniformity, they help your courses achieve maximum playability and profitability.

All Rain Bird electric golf rotors feature a GBS25 solenoid with 25kV surge protection and built-in filtration for a second level of protection from debris. This solenoid eliminates the most common maintenance tasks that plague competing rotors.

Eagle rotors are serviced from the top and the removal of the snap rings provides quick access to the internal assembly and valve with no digging. Pressure regulation and arc adjustment can be made from the top, using only a screwdriver.

Watering needs can change daily and now the watering arc can change with them. Rain Bird 751 Golf Rotors offer easy, top-adjustable rotation settings that retain the memory of their part-circle arc setting when shifting between full- and part-circle operation. This feature is designed to offer quick, dry arc

adjustments not just during grow-in, but for the life of the rotor. Whether you need to ramp up watering during fertigation or conserve water, it can all be done with a simple twist of your wrist.

Trusted by turf professionals everywhere, these rotors deliver optimal playing surfaces, high durability and reduced water costs.

Whether for the replacement of damaged units or upgrade of old, inefficient and under performing heads, the spring offer provides the opportunity to purchase units at attractive prices. The offer is valid throughout May and includes the Eagle range of rotors including 351B, 700B, 700E, 751B, 751E, 900E & 950E.

It is based on the purchase of Rain Bird rotors within the same family, for example if you buy four 751E rotors you will actually receive five 751E rotors.





## Do you have a

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### **GI** RECRUITMENT

#### **EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER ROYAL SYDNEY GOLF CLUB**

#### The Royal Sydney Golf Club is one of Australia's foremost prestigious social and sporting clubs.

The Club is currently seeking an experienced Greenkeeper to assist with the operations and maintenance of our facilities. Turfcare professionals with a relevant experience and a qualification in Turf Management or Greenkeeping are asked to apply. New starters are supported by an experienced leadership team and a highly competent group of turfcare professionals; Greenkeepers with a strong work ethic and team orientation, who are looking to learn, and have a passion for presenting surfaces of the highest quality, will excel in the Club's environment.

#### Whilst this role is for a 6 month placement from

October 2017 to March 2018 for those who have the necessary working visa, sponsorship may be considered for eligible candidates

Applications by forwarding a letter and resume to: careers@rsgc.com.au



#### DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

An exciting position has arisen for an enthusiastic, motivated and qualified Deputy Head Greenkeeper to join our maintenance team at Tyrifjord Golf Klubb. The successful candidate will be a qualified greenkeeper with sound greenkeeping experience, either working as a Greenkeeper for a minimum of 6 years or currently holding a position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

#### The successful candidate will have:

- Leadership skills
- Irrigation Skills
- Mechanical skills
- Benefits
- Staff clothing
- Further training and education
- Pension contributions and healthcare insurance

if required

Membership to NGA

Use of our golf course.

• Discounted on site accommodation

- Competitive salary.
- See the links below for more info on our club. http://www.tyrifjord-golfklubb.no/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFrZHine7Us&t=42s Due to our current Deputy leaving very soon we invite early applicants. Please apply via email with Full CV to ian@tyrifjord-golfklubb.no before the 22nd May 2016

#### FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER WORTHING GOLF CLUB

Worthing Golf Club is seeking to recruit a First Assistant Greenkeeper to join its professional greenkeeping team. The position is on the Lower Course par 71 SSS 72. The First Assistant will be responsible for the day to day management of 5 full time and 2 part time staff.

#### Applications are invited with the following minimum attributes:

- Minimum NVQ level III or equivalent.
- Commitment to CPD.
- . Minimum 5 years' experience.
- Pa 1, 2 & 6a certificates. .

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Experience of irrigation equipment. Please send a cy and covering letter to: George Barr.

Closing date: 12th May 2017. Email: enquiries@worthinggolf.com. Website: www.worthinggolf.com

- · Conversant with Health and Safety regulations.
- Excellent communication skills & IT literacy.
- · Ability to lead and motivate staff.



#### SENIOR GREENKEEPER WHITEHILL HOUSE GOLF CLUB

We are looking for an senior greenkeeper to strengthen our team at Whitehill House Golf Course on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

We are seeking a highly self motivated individual, with at least 5 years exceptional golf course experience, who possesses the minimum of NVQ/SVQ Level 3 qualification.

You must have experience of using pesticides, fungicides, fertilisers and all attributes of agronomy to promote healthy fine turf to the highest standard. Good machinery/workshop skills and knowledge of irrigation systems would also be useful.

You will possess excellent communication skills, have a "can do" attitude and have high personal standards.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. If interested please email your CV with covering letter to: newgreenkeeper@gmail.com



#### HEAD GREENKEEPER MALDEN GOLF CLUB

Malden Golf Club is a friendly member's club in Surrey with an outstanding traditional 18 hole parkland course designed and laid out in 1926. The course condition has been greatly improved over recent years thanks to the expertise of the Head Greenkeeper and his team, together with considerable investment from the club. We are now recruiting for this position due to our current HGK moving to another club to further develop his career.

#### Essential Skills:

- · Five years golf course management with at least two years at a senior level.
- Qualified to NVQ 3 or equivalent
- Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6.

Interested applicants please apply including a CV to: manager@maldengolfclub.com Or write to: Mr N. Coulson-Bence, Malden Golf Club, Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey. KT3 4RS Tel. 0208 942 0654.

#### **DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER** Burghill Valley Golf Club, Hereford

#### www.bvgc.co.uk 01432 760456

Under new ownership since 2015 we are a busy, forward thinking woodland course on the outskirts of Hereford Reporting to the Course Manager, the post represents a superb opportunity for a competent and self motivated Greenkeeper to take on a senior role.

#### Applicants should have

- · NVQ 2 Minimum Sports Turf Maintainence (Preferably Level 3)
- · Competancy in all tasks that are necessary to maintain a high quality golf course
- · PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates
- Capability to deputise for the Course Manager in his absence
- · An ability to supervise and develop fellow members of the Greenkeeping team
- · Experience in using, maintaining and repairing machines

#### · Full Driving Licence

Please apply in writing or email with a C.V. and covering letter to: George Simpson, Course Manager, Burghill Valley Golf Club, Tillington Road, Burghill, Hereford, HR4 7RW or george@bvgc.co.uk

Closing date: May 12th 2017



#### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

#### To maintain a private nine hole golf course in Newgate Street Village, SG13 8RA.

The successful applicant will need the skills to maintain the course to a high level, will have a good knowledge of sand greens, be capable of maintaining green-keeping equipment and irrigation system.

A flexible approach to working hours is required to include weekend duties and have the ability to problem solve and make effective decisions.

#### Salary negotiable

Please apply in writing to: - Brian Comer, Forest Hills, Newgate Street Village, Hertfordshire, SG13 8RA or email to: - brian@comerhomes.co.uk

#### ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER, OLD COURSE SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

Sunningdale Golf Club is seeking an Assistant Head Greenkeeper to join our world class team.

- The candidate should have :-
- NVQ level 3 or equivalent
- PA1, PA2 and PA6
- . Minimum 5 years' industry experience
- Good working knowledge of automatic . irrigation systems.
- Tournament preparation experience.
- · High levels of personal presentation, communication and leadership.

#### Sunningdale is dedicated to achieving truly World Class standards:

- Golf Course Architecture Magazine World Top 100
- Golf Digest Magazine World Top 100: Old Course @ No 23 and New Course @ No 92

Please send full CV and covering letter to:Clare Livingston, Administration & HR Manager, Sunningdale Golf Club Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR. jobs@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk



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A synergistic blend of seaweed extract, amino acids, iron, magnesium and manganese in one convenient package.



A balanced growing environment is necessary to produce healthy turf that can withstand abiotic stresses and less than ideal weather conditions. Providian is a complete, balanced plant stress and turfgrass health enhancement package that maximizes the growing environment and strengthens turf to better defend itself when conditions begin to deteriorate.

#### **Benefits from Providian include:**

- Increases stress resilience and water stress tolerance
- Enhances turfgrass quality and visual presentation
- Increases photosynthesis of the plant
- Improves root development
- Speeds recovery of stressed turf
- Promotes a more natural and sustainable green colour



# BRINGING THE LIGHT TO LYTHAM GREEN DRIVE

Lytham Green Drive is situated at the mouth of the River Ribble, Lancashire, and is one of the more attractive courses you will find on your golfing travels, said BIGGA's James Hutchinson.

C

Led by Doug Chiltern, the greenkeeping team has undertaken a great amount of aquatic environmental work.

Many of the ponds on the estate were becoming choked with silt and required attention so the team set about clearing areas of stagnant wetlands. Their objective was to move water from their parkland course quicker, whilst attracting more wildlife at the same time – not an easy task!

Lack of sunlight was blamed for one pond's demise. The solution was to remove a collection of willows, which allowed afternoon sunlight to reach the water.

Other small trees, including elder and juvenile sycamore, were managed and a section of hedgerow was made smaller. This gave the pond as much chance as possible to reinvigorate itself. Without sunlight, ponds have a habit of turning into a state called hypoxia. This means there is low oxygen and photosynthetic organisms struggle to survive. It is at this point that the pond is in trouble.

The practices the team have put into place appear to be working a treat, as the previously rotting water is now starting to show signs of life again!

As of 13 April, yellow flag iris, soft rush, water forget-me-not and a type of water lily were beginning to grow.

In the trees to the north end of the pond you can hear willow warbler and chiff chaff singing as life returns to the area.

It is always a pleasure seeing the great work our industry is undertaking to help the environment our courses are laid out on. Long gone are the days when we were thought of as producing wastes of overfertilised land. Excellent work from the team at Green Drive!

Top and bottom right: Coots at Lytham Green Drive

Ponds at Lytham

Green Drive





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