



GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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BTME 2018

Revealing the
winners of the
BIGGA Awards

BTME Breakfast
Club: Cutting
Edge Turf
Management

In conversation
with President
Chris Kennedy

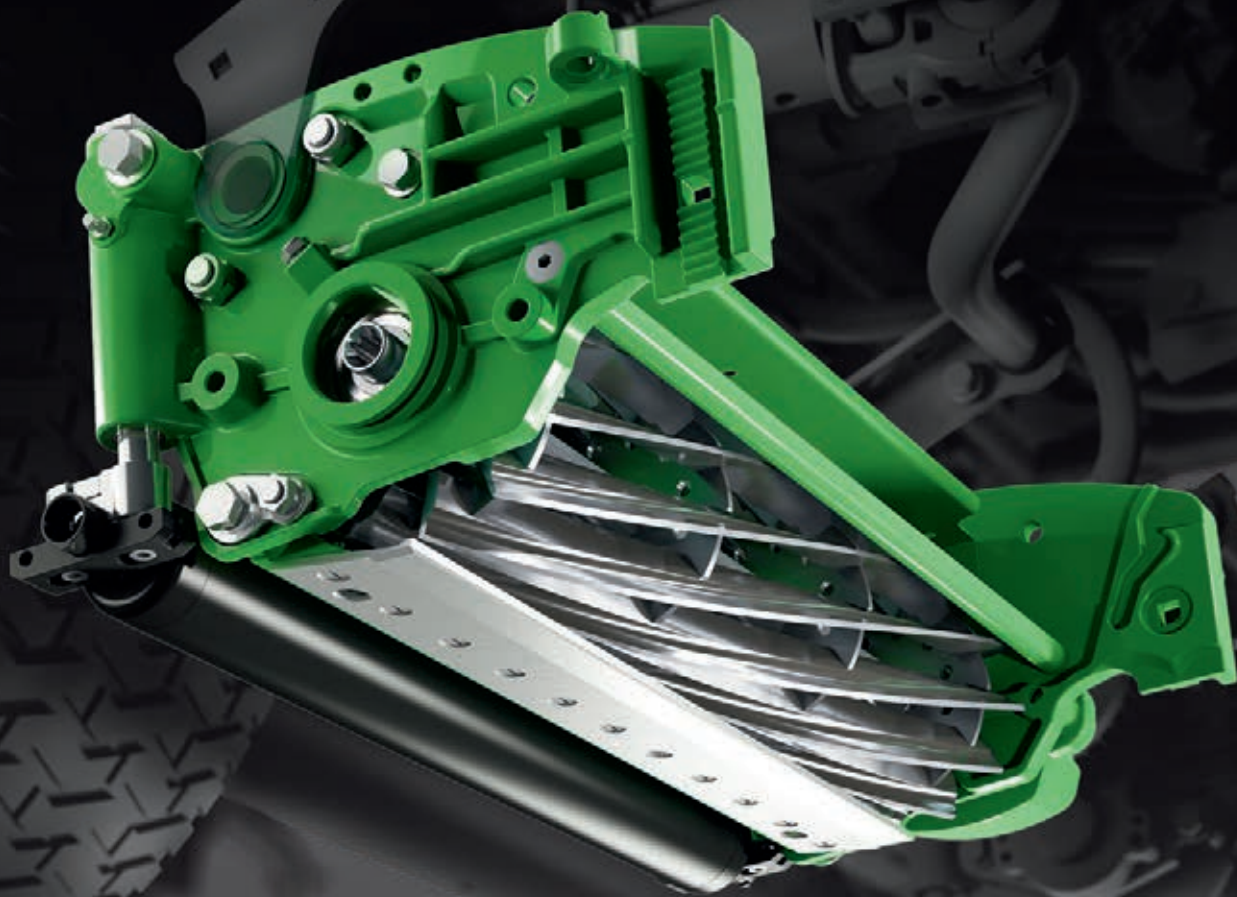
BIGGA Welcome
Celebration with
Textron Golf

Young
Greenkeepers'
Conference

Featured Inside

The first female apprentice | Biostimulants | Turf rollers
Coast to Coast: Cornwall | Myanmar





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



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ISSN: 0961— 6977
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Welcome



BIGGA Welcome Celebration 2018



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

During BTME, the staff here at BIGGA work non-stop, some quite literally around the clock, to make sure everything runs smoothly for the thousands of members and visitors, hundreds of exhibitors, and all the speakers who deliver our world-class education programme.

The whole week is something of a whirlwind, but there isn't anyone on the team who doesn't get excited about the exhibition and the opportunity it provides to connect with members.

There was a moment, during the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, when I stood to the side of the stage and realised that out there in the auditorium were over 400 people. There were hundreds of greenkeepers, from the youngest apprentice to legends of the profession, many of our key exhibitors and industry partners from the likes of the R&A and Home Unions. Many of our members were visibly emotional at the recognition they were receiving from their peers. Kenny Mackay, Frank Scullion,

Mal Mitchell, these are just a few of the names that jump to mind. At that moment I felt genuinely proud of what BIGGA has created. From the dedicated staff at BIGGA House to each and every member who has given up their time to develop and improve the association, BTME is a celebration of everything we and you have achieved and although there's still a long way to go, we're certainly on the right track.

As always with such things, there were also some goodbyes to be had. I have enjoyed spending the last year with Sid Arrowsmith MG, who brought chivalry and incredible professionalism to the role of BIGGA President, and he shall be greatly missed. I hope he will remain close to the association and continue to share his knowledge with the next generation of members.

We tried some new things at BTME this year. Some were a huge success, such as the Young Greenkeepers' Conference, while others needed a bit of work. Registration for those arriving at the event was slow, particularly on Tuesday morning, and although we improved during the week, we will endeavour to make sure it is perfect next year.

Between the 150-plus exhibitors and the thousands of attendees, the four halls were filled to the brim. It gave the entire exhibition an energy that you just can't manufacture, but there is a clear need to expand the amount of space available, which is why we announced our plans for 2019 at this year's event. These plans will allow us to accommodate more exhibitors than ever before and will provide us with the opportunity to innovate, and create a more enjoyable visitor experience. We've received a lot of feedback about our plans, and generally this has been positive. We will, though, be working hard to reassure those who are a little more nervous.

Just like when our members host their major golf tournaments each year, as soon as the event concludes, we're already well underway with planning for next year. It's going to be an exciting time, and everyone within BIGGA is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that will arise.



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From the Editor



An overview of this month's edition of Greenkeeper International, with your editor, Karl Hansell

An association for everyone

There's a young man who works way, way up north. We're talking an area renowned for being the most sparsely populated region in all of Western Europe, where the nearest major town is 68 miles away and where 50 years ago, Gaelic was still the primary language spoken by the residents.

The location is Durness, and the young man is Alistair Morrison, who during BTME was proclaimed the BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the Year.

Alistair is course manager, greenkeeper, mechanic, and at just 25 years of age he comprises the entire greenkeeping team at the nine-hole Durness Golf Club, renowned as the most north-westerly golf club in mainland Britain.

Yet neither his location, his professional responsibilities nor his isolation have prevented Alistair from achieving some fantastic things. He's quickly building himself a reputation as a talented greenkeeper and we were delighted that he was able to make it to the BIGGA Welcome Celebration to receive his award.

Alistair — quite literally — couldn't be further away from the wealth of Wentworth, who also picked up a BIGGA Award at this year's BTME, and yet Alistair's work ethic and passion for his craft is no less than any of his peers at the country's more illustrious clubs.

In this month's Greenkeeper International I sat down for a chat with Chris Kennedy,

BIGGA President for 2018 and a man who is never short of an anecdote, whether it be the antics of the American Ryder Cup team at Kiawah Island or his close friendship with many legends of the game. Hailing from Cowglen, near Glasgow, it never fails to amaze me where greenkeeping can take you, and Chris is the embodiment of that.

Chris made his name at Wentworth, where over almost a quarter of a century he oversaw the course preparation at multiple European Tour events each year. And yet Chris is as aware as anyone, that just having a prestigious venue on your CV doesn't make you a better greenkeeper. We can't all be course managers at clubs on the Open rota, and many extremely talented greenkeepers spend their entire careers at their hometown club, or at little-known venues where the golfers take for granted the efforts of their talented greenstaff.

At BIGGA our education and networking opportunities are here for everyone, as more than 4,000 of you discovered last month at BTME and Continue to Learn. From Durness to Wentworth, and every course in between, there was something for everyone. And although BTME may have passed, your membership of BIGGA entitles you to a whole range of benefits and opportunities intended to develop your own abilities.

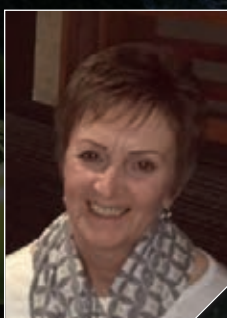
As Chris says, you only have to ask. And if Alistair can do it, I'm not sure the rest of us can have an excuse for not getting involved.

In this Issue

Our contributors

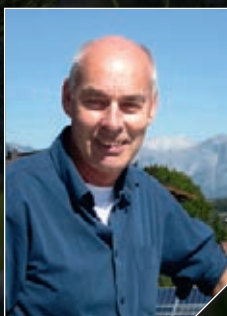
24 Lesley Lowrie

Lesley is managing director of GOSTA Training and has been in this role for 26 years. Lesley has enjoyed being able to ensure that high quality training is delivered to many hundreds of students over the years. Among them was Vicky Cavinue, the first female greenkeeper to be trained by GOSTA, 18 years ago, and in this feature we see how Vicky is getting on today.



26 Laurence Pithie MG

The first turf professional to attain BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper status in 1991, Laurence also won greenkeeper and groundsman of the year awards in 1984 and 1988. This month he visited Cornwall's north and south shores to compare the challenges faced by two of the county's greenkeeping teams.



34 Paul Jansen

Paul is widely regarded as one of golf's most well-travelled course architects. He is a former lead architect for Nick Faldo design and worked on projects all over the world. In 2011 Paul established Jansen Golf Design & Construction, creating highly-sustainable courses that provide strategic but fun golf.



66 Ian Mitchell

Ian runs High Five Training, a specialist training provider covering the groundcare market, and this month he takes a closer look at rollers. Ian started the business in 2015, after a 35-year career with machinery manufacturer Ransomes Jacobsen. His mantra is 'training should be fun. If it's not, you're doing it wrong!'



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BIGGA members once again completed a clean sweep at the STRI's annual awards bash

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The latest greenkeeping news

Newsdesk



Newsdesk

BIGGA has announced major changes that reveal how BTME will look in coming years.

A restructuring of the exhibition, seen as the premier turf management exhibition in Europe, will see the exhibition floor space grow by up to 25 per cent.

Harrogate Convention Centre will continue to host BTME. The venue has seen significant investment made in recent years, and BIGGA has opted to take advantage, in a move that will further improve the experience for visitors and exhibitors alike.

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton said: "The Harrogate Convention Centre remains the ideal location to host BTME, as not only are the facilities ideally suited to hosting such a huge event, but the North Yorkshire market town itself is integral to the success of the exhibition.

"We're delighted that BTME has grown to the extent that it can no longer be contained within the four traditional

exhibition halls that we have utilised. The move to alternative facilities within the centre enables us to retain all that is good about BTME, the premier turf management event in Europe, while presenting an improved visitor experience and allowing all our exhibitor base to take the space they need to show their wares.

"It is critical that all events evolve to suit the needs of their stakeholders and I'm thrilled we have the opportunity to do so with BTME 2019."

The focus of BTME will shift away from the Ripon Road end of the convention centre, to the main auditorium entrance, further down King's Road. This opens up different exhibition spaces, creating an improved, structured journey for the visitor and brings a whole host of possibilities for innovation and creativity.

In 2019 BTME will no longer utilise Halls A and M. Halls

B and C will be retained, but the King's Suite, Halls D and Q and Studio One will become the main exhibition spaces, with the primary entrance to the exhibition coming through the Harrogate Convention Centre's main entrance.

The Continue to Learn education programme will remain in the Queen's Suite, but the new layout will mean the education programme will now be situated at the centre of the entire visitor experience, rather than at the very rear of the facilities used. Meanwhile, the impressive modern auditorium will be utilised for the key educational and celebratory events.

BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG said: "I've been coming to BTME ever since I was first appointed head greenkeeper at Cleethorpes Golf Club. The education offering was a major help as I progressed through my career and now, as a course manager at one of London's premier clubs, I find the interaction with exhibitors throughout the show to be priceless.

"As a consumer of the show myself, I'm excited about the possibilities these changes present, with the result being a brighter, more exciting and more engaging exhibition for everyone."

Brian Dobson, head of sales and events at Harrogate Convention Centre, said: "Seeing an annual exhibition evolve and grow is something every event venue loves to see. BIGGA has established itself as a major fixture on Harrogate Convention Centre's calendar and has grown into an international event.

"It's great for us as a venue and for Harrogate, as a town, to see the show expanding for 2019 and welcoming more exhibitors.

"I'm proud to say we are a part of BTME's success."



Ken Richardson



BIGGA was saddened to hear of the passing of former deputy chief executive Ken Richardson during January.

Ken passed away on Saturday 13 January aged 73 after a period of illness.

He joined BIGGA in 1994 as education officer, after previously acting as senior training manager in the Royal Air Force, where he achieved the rank of squadron leader.

Over the years Ken produced the education programme for 13 BTMEs and he also introduced the Continued Professional Development programme to the association.

Ken spent 14 years at BIGGA, where he acted as a mentor for a number of staff, including Head of Member Development Sami Strutt.

Upon his retirement in 2007, Ken penned the following note: "The depth and range of education and training for greenkeepers has grown massively. I have seen a massive change in the attitude, confidence and professionalism of greenkeepers. I have travelled around Europe and to the USA, attended more meetings than I care to remember. But best of all, I have met a lot of very genuine, helpful, friendly greenkeepers, course managers, superintendents, officials, dealers, trade members, club secretaries, golf officials and even golfers.

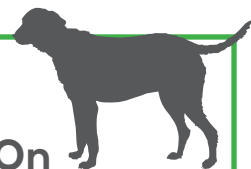
"Technology has brought many changes, computers are everywhere and overhead projectors are historical items like steam trains.

"I can remember being asked in my interview what I knew about greenkeeping. My answer was not a lot, but I did know a fair bit about education and training and that BIGGA had more than 3,000 subject matter experts. I now know a bit more about greenkeeping, a bit more about education and training, and BIGGA now has more than 6,000 subject matter experts."

Ken is survived by his wife Sandra, sons Nigel and Dean, their wives Alison and Lisa, and grandchildren Juliet, Melissa, Charlotte and Lucy.



Dogs On Course



Name: Rocco

Age: Two

Owner: Adam Moss

Course: The Henley

Breed: German Short-haired Pointer

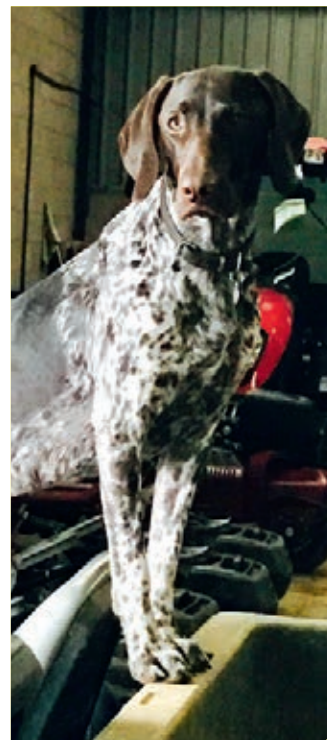
Favourite treat: Finishing off the lads' cup of tea at break time

Favourite spot on the course: Lake on the 5th hole

Naughtiest moment: After a fairly hot day at work, Rocco went for a dip in the lake and then joined the members in the clubhouse bar where he shook himself dry!

My dog is happiest when... running flat out on the golf course all day, every day.

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



Hexham hero

A Hexham greenkeeper has been credited with saving the life of a dog walker who had fallen into the River Tyne.

Kevin Thompson, head greenkeeper at Tynedale Golf Club, pulled the unknown man to safety using one of the life belts situated on the riverbank.

"The man got into difficulty after attempting to rescue his spaniel," Kevin told the Hexham Courant. "But he fell in deeper and got stuck in some branches.

"If he'd been a few feet further out, he would have been in the rapids and he'd have been swept away."

Kevin managed to get the life ring around the trapped dog walker, and pulled him to safety. Both the walker's dogs also escaped the incident unscathed.



Photo by the Hexham Courant

Realising the ambulance would struggle to cross the golf course, Kevin brought the man to the clubhouse using his buggy. Emergency paramedics treated the man, but he required no further care.

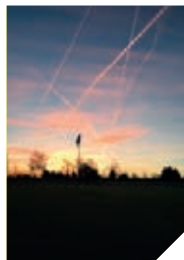
Kevin was later presented with a Hexham Constituency Community Champion Award from Hexham's MP Guy Opperman in recognition of his heroism.

This month @BIGGALtd



@matt6lewis

What a beautiful morning
at Hollywood GC
@Hollywood_Golf
@BIGGAMidlands
@GHGCGreens
@bmsproducts



@Kev_rh

Morning sunrise
@MKGC_Pro @BIGGALtd
#redskymorning-
greenkeeperswarning



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YGC SEE THIS!
@JordanBird3
verticaldraining fairways
today!

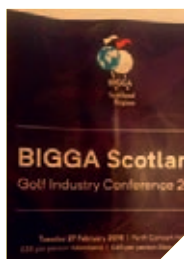
@LeylandGCGreens

It may be a bit sad but
one of my favourite jobs is
putting up the new
@BIGGALtd wallplanner
and filling it in



@stufergusonmg

The #BIGGAScotland
educational train is
stopping at Perth
for one day only!
#ContinueToLearn It's
sure to be a great day
regardless of the weather!



@WellowGolfClub

The importance of
ditches. Each year we
spend many hours
clearing the ditches
for this reason exactly.
They have helped drain
the course massively
through the wetter winter
months. #drain #ditches
#wintergolf #stream



@CMnairndunbar

This magazine will be a
great tool in educating
golfers, giving them
an insight into the
work carried out by
greenkeepers across the
UK 🇬🇧 #education
#communication
#professional #learning



Minchinhampton



Minchinhampton Golf Club

Minchinhampton has long shown an active commitment to providing positive environmental and social value, and has now gained international distinction with the award of the GEO Certification.

The 54-hole Gloucestershire facility, founded in 1889, has been recognised by BIGGA and the STRI Golf Course Environment Awards over numerous years since 1997.

Paul Worster, course manager, said: "Joining the GEO family has been an ambition for some time. It required all areas of the club to come together, and fostered a sense of ownership which has crossed over into our membership.

"The process was actually fairly simple, with energy, water and fuel use tracked via invoices, providing an opportunity to develop clear policies in a number of key areas. The result is improved record keeping and analysis of expenditures, which is exactly what is needed in today's business environment.

"Our operation has become more efficient as a result."

The club is located among several landscape designations, including the Cotswolds 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', SSSI and Scheduled Ancient Monument Status.

Richard Allison from the GEO summarised the achievement.

He said: "Minchinhampton has shown great practical action and positive impact in their initiatives throughout sustainability.

"GEO Certified is a thoroughly deserved achievement and it's our pleasure to congratulate Paul and the team on this.

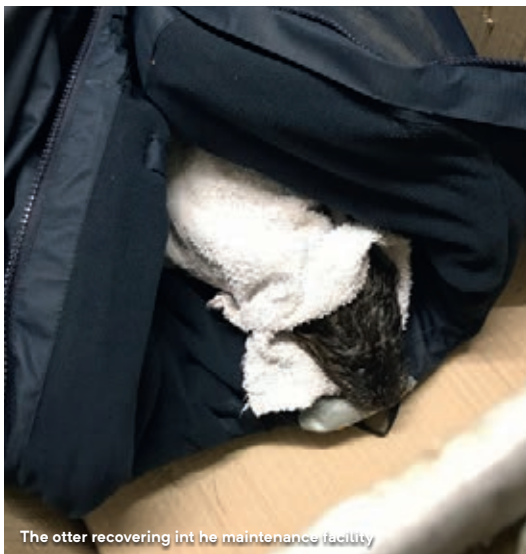
"We look forward to seeing the club build upon its longstanding positive work and shine as a leading example to others."

Policies highlighted by Matt Johns, the GEO's independent accredited verifier, included: public common ground maintained to National Trust and National England Guidelines; consultations with National Trust, DEFRA, English Heritage and the Forestry Commission leading to landscape heritage conservation; a full energy audit as part of an England Golf project looking at renewable technologies; zero-waste strategies and recycling policy; wooden materials and logs fuel a clubhouse stove, while organic waste and manure is composted and used as topdressing; the membership model provides affordable golf to the local area and charities are supported through golf days and events; machinery and staff time is set aside for conservation work around the community.

Largs otter rescue



The Largs greenkeepers with the otter



The otter recovering in the maintenance facility

The cold weather brought a bittersweet situation to Largs Golf Club, as the greenkeeping team discovered a pair of otters close to the 15th hole.

One of the otters was found lying in the middle of the 15th fairway and was rescued by the team and taken to a local

wildlife rescue sanctuary, where it is said to be recovering well.

Head greenkeeper Ian Barr said: "We recovered the otter to our maintenance facility, where we wrapped it in a warm towel and jacket and contacted Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue, who quickly responded to recover it."

The other otter was located in Largs Yacht Haven, but unfortunately could not be saved.

Martin Davenport



BIGGA was saddened to hear of the untimely passing of Eaton Golf Club's Martin Davenport, aged 35.

Martin was described as a "real prodigal son" of the Cheshire club, having started there in 2001 aged 18. Over the years he left Eaton more than once, but kept returning to a greenkeeping role. He also worked in agricultural groundwork and fencing and ran a gardening business.

A spokesperson for Eaton said: "Martin was a considerable and popular asset to the team. He was also well-known to club members for his abilities as a freelance gardener. He frequently sported a knowing grin, and had a talent for ensuring everyone was happy with his work."

Did you know...

BIGGA now has a dyslexia-friendly version of Greenkeeper International available to download.

Log in to www.bigga.org.uk to get the latest edition.





Across the Board

Chris Kennedy | BIGGA President

I'd like to thank you all for appointing me as president of this fantastic association. It was difficult to hold office during my time at Wentworth, but since retiring I have more time on my hands and I am keen to stay close to the industry, so it is a privilege to be asked to represent BIGGA for the next year.

I must give thanks to Sid Arrowsmith MG, who did an incredible job as BIGGA President throughout 2017. He was tireless and unwavering in his duties and that is credit to Sid, and his family and employers who supported him. There will never be another George Brown who ran things at Turnberry for so many years. George was a real character and him, Walter Woods, Jack McMillan and I had fantastic times, but to me Sid is the new George Brown of BIGGA. He's a real gentleman and the association is indebted to him for his service.

Things move quickly in this industry and I'm looking forward to the many events that I will attend this year, which will provide the opportunity to rekindle old friendships, and make many new ones.

I've been going to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show for 30 years, so I will see some old friends over there. Their association is just like ours, things change, and it's sad to say it, but some of the old characters aren't there any more. It's a new regime, with younger guys at the helm. One thing I am looking forward to at GIS is big Ernie Els is getting the Old Tom Morris award. Ernie and I worked very closely for over 10 years on the changes to the West Course at Wentworth, so

I'm looking forward to meeting up with him in San Antonio.

I have been involved with greenkeeping associations since 1963, when I was an apprentice representative on the Scottish greenkeepers' association, SIGGA, right through to 1980 when I was made president. When we all amalgamated into BIGGA, I was the first regional administrator for Scotland until I left to go to England in 1989, and I handed it over to Elliott Small.

In the immediate aftermath of BTME 2018, we all have an incredible opportunity to elevate the association to even greater heights, and that will improve the standing of greenkeepers in the wider golf industry. The education package at BTME is second to none, the show is getting bigger

and better and if everybody buys into the improvements which the board has implemented for 2019, it should be an even better experience going forward.

Through my career I've met some incredible people. Big Ernie Els, Seve Ballesteros, they were all incredible characters. I was blessed with a great career. But I was incredibly lucky, you know. I did the hard work, made some great friendships, and then when the opportunity came my way, I grasped it with both hands.

Following BTME, you've got the education, you've gained all that knowledge. Now it's up to you to keep your eye open for that next big opportunity. And if it comes your way, don't be afraid to grab it. You never know where that opportunity may take you.



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.



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



Ecology Roundup

GI Ecology
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James Hutchinson | BIGGA Sustainability Executive

Right, where do we start with this month's blog?

How about BTME? What a fizzer! It was an honour to meet so many greenies who hold an interest in their course's wildlife, ecology and sustainable practices.

I particularly enjoyed listening to new methods of maintaining your environs with little or no cash – roll on BTME 2019, that's what I say. Here are a few snaps of BIGGA members and dignitaries dropping in for a quick chat.

Also held at BTME was the much-coveted STRI Golf Environment Awards. Sophie Vukelic admirably compered the hugely-successful evening's entertainment and the winners are as follows:

- Carnoustie — Environmental Golf Course of the Year
- Abergele — Outstanding Project
- Stephen Thompson — Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year
- Kingsdown — Operation Pollinator Award

A massive congratulations to all the winners and runners-up from us lot at BIGGA, all well-deserved I reckon.

Just a quick add on: it was Stephen Thompson's fourth attempt at winning the Conservation Greenkeeper title. He could have given up after a few attempts but nope, he came back stronger each year and won in the end — there's a message for you if ever there was one!

In terms of golf course projects, why not feast your peepers on this development at Notts GC (Hollinwell)? The team has designed and built this home for the local kingfishers which have been noted flitting around the site — smashing work guys!

A note to any greenkeepers who wish to photograph a kingfisher nest, they are a Schedule 1 bird so you'll need a licence from Natural England and be able to prove your competence near the nest.

Happy wildlifing!

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



Top to bottom: Chris Kennedy, Greg Fitzmaurice and Carl Hamlett, Sean Tully, Matt James and John Keepen

Background: Phil Stain's kingfisher house

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YGC

Young Greenkeepers' Committee

New Members 2018

Welcome to the latest members of the Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Dennis Grant, 28, assistant greenkeeper, Newmacher



I've been working as a greenkeeper since leaving school at the age of 17. To have had the opportunity to develop my knowledge and skills within this industry across a number of golf courses, and to continue to do so today in my current role, has been absolutely brilliant — especially as I am such a keen golfer in my spare time.

In 2017, I joined the Young Greenkeepers' Committee and became the representative for the North of Scotland.

In 2013, I was fortunate enough to receive the Patrons Award, which allowed me to attend BTME and allowed me to attend several educational seminars. This was an incredible experience and is just one of many educational, volunteering and networking opportunities available to young, ambitious greenkeepers like myself.

Tom Howells, 23, assistant greenkeeper, The Worcestershire



I have been in the greenkeeping business for two-and-a-half years and I got into it because I love the game and wanted to see what needs to be done for the game to be enjoyed by others.

I joined the YGC back in December and I'm one of the three South West and South Wales representatives.

I want to be able to help the YGC grow and develop along with the members are other young greenkeepers around the country. I would also like to further my knowledge and try to help other young greenkeepers further their knowledge and understanding of the job.

Mitchell Jordan, 28, first assistant, Lingdale



I joined the YGC in September 2017 as one of the three Central England Region representatives.

I started greenkeeping after playing golf at a local club in Leicestershire, of which my stepdad was captain, and he asked if I

wanted a summer temp job with the greenstaff. I have been in the industry eight years now and have taken so much from it thanks to BIGGA.

My experiences have helped shape my passion for greenkeeping and the sport of golf. They've been invaluable and something I would urge any young BIGGA member to put themselves forward for. I'm keen to learn from my peers and more experienced members of the YGC who've been in my position before and excelled in their roles and careers.

At Lingdale I'm able to take that learning and use it to help, advise and mentor our younger team members, seeing them develop interest and skills in the role.

Joe Frampton, 26, assistant greenkeeper, Pyle & Kenfig



I joined the YGC in September 2017 as one of three representatives of the South West and South Wales Region.

I got into greenkeeping through my love of the outdoors and golf and I started my career volunteering at a local golf course.

I have been in the industry for eight years and have taking many opportunities with BIGGA such as the BIGGA Open Support Team, and I have also trained on the Ohio State University programme.

I'm keen to progress in this industry and I would like to provide the young guys just starting out in the sports turf industry with the opportunities available through BIGGA to help them progress through the industry.

John Bowers, 25, assistant greenkeeper, Crail Golfing Society



I have been at Crail Golfing Society for almost two years. Before Crail, I started as an apprentice in 2008 at The Golf House Club Elie, gaining my Level 2 and 3, plus spraying along the way. When asked to join the YGC I was very keen as I'm passionate about greenkeeping and want the younger generation of greenkeepers to have a voice in this massive industry.



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Golf Environment Awards 2018

The winners of the 2018 Golf Environment Awards were announced at The Crown, Harrogate, in a ceremony hosted by the STRI and R&A.

Golf Environment Awards 2018

Environmental Golf Course of the Year 2018 — Carnoustie Golf Links

Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year 2018 — Stephen Thompson, John O'Gaunt Golf Club

Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year 2018 — Abergele Golf Club

Operation Pollinator 2018 — Kingsdown Golf Club

The annual Golf Environment Awards provide the platform from which the golf industry can demonstrate environmental excellence in all its forms. Established in 1995, the awards have gone from strength to strength and in 2018, attendees to the awards almost tripled in numbers.

Carnoustie Golf Links were awarded Environmental Golf Course of the Year for their incredible work within the local community and their continued environmentally-conscious practices in all areas of golf course management. Each decision at the golf facility considers the impact on the environment and each member of staff is trained to work in such a way.

STRI ecology consultant, Sophie Vukelic, said: "A huge congratulations to the winners and finalists of this year's awards. You each showcase what sustainable management is within golf. The golf environment is a better place with you all working to protect it."

Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year was received by Stephen Thompson of John O'Gaunt Golf Club for his passionate dedication to nature conservation within golf. Stephen has extensive biodiversity records for both courses at his club, enabling him to tailor the management of the mosaic of habitats accordingly.

Abergele Golf Club won Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year for their Tir Gwyllt (Wild Land) area. Darren Anderson MG, his team of greenkeeping staff and several members have created a wildlife haven from materials ready to hand or donated. The project is a remarkable example of people pulling together to create something spectacular.

Operation Pollinator was awarded to Kingsdown Golf Club where Tom Freeman has introduced extensive native wildflower areas with the help of local primary school children. Not only did this Operation Pollinator project provide for nectar and pollen loving insects, it also provided a great golf education to the younger generation.

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The R&A's involvement in the GEA Awards does not elicit its endorsement for the sponsor's products or services.

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Top: Carnoustie Golf Links

Middle left: Stephen Thompson

Bottom left: Abergele Golf Club

Right: Kingsdown Golf Club

Fancy having a go yourself?

The entries for the 2019 Golf Environment Awards are now open and we encourage all golf clubs, big or small, to enter and show off their hard work.

Enter today at
www.golfenvironmentawards.com

Syngenta at the Ryder Cup

This summer Syngenta will be working with Le Golf National, hosts of the Ryder Cup 2018, to sponsor the international volunteer greenkeeping team working at the course in September.

Course Manager Alejandro Reyes highlighted how the course maintenance operation on the week of the Ryder Cup will involve a massive undertaking of around 180 people.

Alejandro added: "Approximately 140 of these team members will be volunteers. They will be coming

from all around Europe, USA and even from the Middle East.

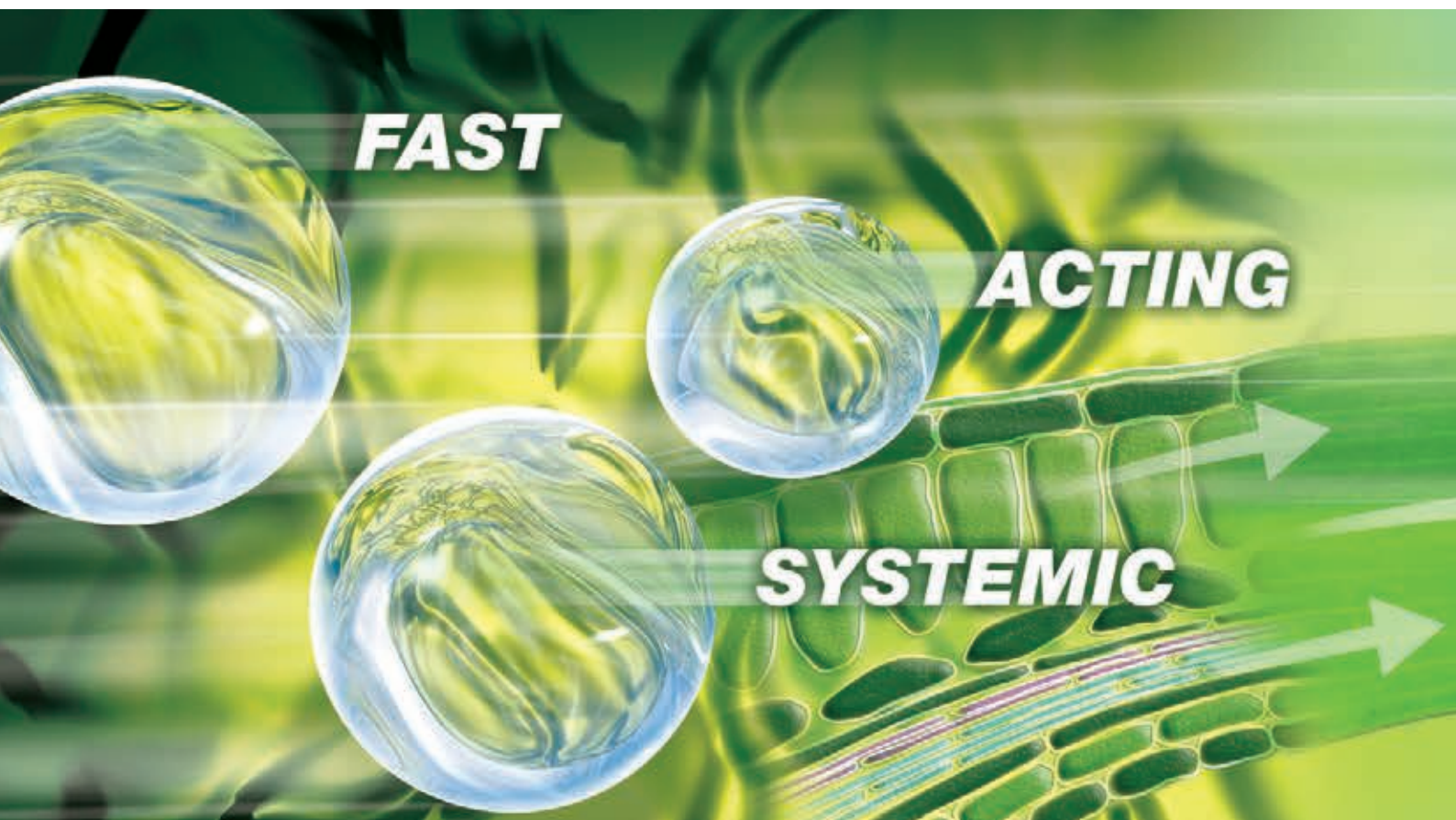
"The volunteers and Le Golf National staff members will work hand-in-hand in order to provide a golf course of the best possible quality."

As part of the Le Golf National sponsorship, Syngenta will be

supporting five UK greenkeepers working within the club's team, and bringing regular live news of their exploits through social media and the Greencast TV channel.

Syngenta European Turf Manager Rod Burke highlighted how Le Golf National's Albatros course is recognised as one of the top championship courses in Europe. Its design combines a traditional links feel with modern features.

Rod added: "Alejandro and the greenkeeping team have created an exceptional facility for the prestigious competitions it hosts throughout the year, as well as golfers who get to play the resort



venue's three courses 365 days a year. There's a lot to learn from their experiences and approach to golf course management and tournament preparation, and it will be incredibly exciting to be part of that and to view it through greenkeepers' eyes."

The club anticipates that the Ryder Cup will have a television audience of over 500 million viewers worldwide, while roughly 65,000 supporters will be on-site each day of the event.

"This will truly be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all involved," said Alejandro.

"As the golf course superintendent, I take great pride in being able to share this event with greenkeepers around the world."



Alejandro Reyes

**FOLLOW AND SHARE THEIR STORY,
THEIR PASSION, THEIR SKILL...**

MLR and Bernhard

MLR, the international sports supplementary lighting business, has named Bernhard and Company as its global distributor for its complete range of products.

MLR provides mobile lighting solutions to sports arenas and is looking to expand globally using Bernhard's global network and customer service.

MLR General Manager Hermann Sather, said: "I'm delighted to start this relationship with Bernhard.

"Its business is renowned throughout the turf industry and is a perfect fit to help us deliver our products across the globe. Our mission is to help all kinds of sports venues achieve excellent year-round playing surfaces, and with Bernhard I believe we have taken a big step towards this."

MLR was founded in Norway in 1998 to tackle the challenge of grass growth at shaded stadium pitches in the tough north European climate.

A specialist in sports turf technology, Bernhard provides leading turfcare solutions to golf courses and pitch care specialists worldwide.

Director Steven Nixon said: "This is the perfect partnership for Bernhard and we are delighted with it. Plant health is at the very heart of our business, as it complements and enhances the products we already offer. We now control all the elements the plant needs for healthy growth."

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Emma Kilby

After beating three types of cancer, Emma Kilby is taking part in the London Marathon 2018 in a bid to raise funds for Children with Cancer UK.

The technical area sales manager for ICL, Emma was just 16 years old when she was first diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. After six months of chemotherapy, followed by 20 days of radiotherapy, she defeated the disease.

She went on to finish her studies at university and gave birth to her first daughter in 2010.

However, just a year later she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Then, six weeks after surgery, she was told she also had an aggressive form of large B-cell lymphoma. After a long and difficult battle and months of operations, she pulled through.

Slowly but surely she has pieced her life back together and Emma

said: "Having cancer as an adult is hard enough to deal with. We have the ability to comprehend and rationalise what we may ultimately have to deal with.

"The thought of any parent having to explain to their diagnosed children the nature of this horrible disease breaks my heart just to think about it. This is why I decided that I was going to run the Virgin London Marathon for the Children with Cancer UK charity. Maybe, just maybe, my contribution can lead to the prevention of the suffering that so many young children have to deal with on a daily basis.

"Thank you for taking the time to read my story. I hope you will help me raise money for this great charity."

To make a donation to Emma's cause, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/emma-kilby

BLEC

BTME 2018 saw BLEC bouncing back and looking bright under the stewardship of Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

The range of specialised landscaping and turfcare equipment has been streamlined and re-engineered by the Redexim team to include a wealth of features.

In line with demand, the BLEC range has been rationalised to a number of core machines, which sit happily alongside, as well as expanding, the current offering from Charterhouse in the UK. Additionally, each of the models in the BLEC portfolio have been redefined and further developed thanks to Redexim's manufacturing techniques.

Manager of the BLEC division, Curtis Allen, said: "We are delighted to have been appointed as BLEC dealers for the Central UK region. We have been involved with BLEC products for many years, both from using the machinery on contracting projects to selling as well. We look forward to offering BLEC machines for purchase or hire to new and existing customers."

With the machinery developments complete, Charterhouse has been busy appointing dealers to distribute the range, including Acorn Tractors, based in Derbyshire.



Ask Dr Mumford

With Colin Mumford, Bayer Turf Solutions

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

Why do products get removed from the market?

There are two main factors contributing to the withdrawal of products from the market. One is that the demand for a product has declined and it may no longer be commercially viable, but this is rare. The most common basis for removal is the revocation of an active ingredient (AI), because it is imposed by the regulatory authorities.

Without approval from the appropriate regulatory body, which in this case is the Chemical Regulations Division, products can't legally be used.

If the authorisation for an AI is removed, it could be because traces of it are found in the environment which are higher than the 'Maximum Residue Limit', which is the greatest amount of AI that's permitted to be found in areas such as soil and ground water.

This is why best practice in product use is important, because overuse or misuse of pesticides can result in thresholds set by regulators being exceeded.

The decision to revoke an active ingredient isn't taken lightly, and the authorities rely heavily on science-based analysis, where trials are conducted, and samples are extensively tested to ensure that the results are reliable.

The manufacturer is informed of the news as soon as it's put in the public realm by the regulators, and the manufacturer will then notify its customers and offer advice and guidance.

Revocations can happen at any time, and notice periods can vary. This is why it's crucial to develop products that will surpass regulatory requirements to ensure their longevity in the turf management industry.

The real safeguards for effective chemistry are greenkeepers, and therefore it's vital to employ best practice on golf courses, to manage turf disease preventatively, rather than curatively, using chemistry responsibly, and as a last resort.

Tweet us your turf questions @BIGGALtd using #AskDrMumford for your chance to win a hamper!

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Membership

'How To...' Guides

Do you ever ask yourself:



For a BIGGA member in a management role, these are important questions to ask, that could determine the success of your team in future. But often, they're situations that you may never have encountered before, and you may not have received training on such matters.

Fortunately, BIGGA is here to help members and has produced a series of exclusive 'How To...' guides.

These short, handy guides provide practical, step-by-step guidance on a range of subjects. The guides can be downloaded and used to help develop your knowledge and implement new processes within your workplace.

The 'How To...' guides are a benefit of BIGGA membership and are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning & Development Fund.

To access the guides, head into the members' area of the BIGGA Website at www.bigga.org.uk

How to prepare for an appraisal

1

Preparation

As with any process, the results will be better if you put thought and effort into planning it. The following checklist provides ideas that will help you prepare thoroughly.

2

During the appraisal discussion

The aim of the discussion is to reach an agreement about what has happened in the past, so the appraiser and individual can plan what needs to happen and set forward-looking goals.

As the appraiser, you should aim to make the discussion a productive and motivational experience. The person being appraised should do most of the talking, while the appraiser's role is to ask questions.

- Welcome the individual and put them at ease
- Explain what will happen
- Ask questions to prompt the individual to talk about their performance
- Summarise what the individual has said to check your understanding and encourage them to clarify feelings or ideas before moving on
- Reinforce the individual's opinion where you agree, or offer your own feedback with examples if you disagree. Expect some disagreement as you will have your own criteria for measuring performance, and this is a good opportunity to understand what each other thinks.
- Accentuate the positive and praise good performance. Focus your feedback on behaviour, not on personality.
- Don't save up feedback on poor performance for the appraisal — deal with it at the time and then explore areas for further improvement and development at the appraisal. There should be no surprises during the appraisal discussion.
- Discuss and agree new targets and goals, and reset those that have not been achieved. Ask the appraisee for ideas and find out what they want to do — they need to take ownership of the new goals.
- Mark the goals SMART (specific, measurable, agreed, realistic and timebound).
- Plan training and development. The plan should cover any training that the individual needs to meet their goals, but may also include personal development to support career progression.
- Agree timescales and how you will review the plan.
- Summarise the discussion and make sure you both know what action you have agreed.

3

Following up the appraisal

The outcome of the discussion — in particular what has been agreed regarding future objectives, performance and development — should be documented as a point of reference that can be monitored on an ongoing basis.

The plans and objectives need to be reviewed regularly during the appraisal period, and adjusted to meet changing circumstances and priorities.

The leading lady of Harborne

Lesley Lowrie, GOSTA Training

Why do we still consider certain job roles as specifically for men or women? After all it is the 21st century!

The horticultural industry and specifically sportsturf greenkeeping is predominantly staffed by males and it may be due to females not knowing enough about the job or just not considering it as an option. Lesley Lowrie, managing director at GOSTA Training, thought it would be interesting to speak to their first female modern apprentice, who was featured in a magazine article some 18 years ago.

Can you tell us a bit about how you came into greenkeeping in the first place?

I was still at school, desperate to leave! I was meeting the careers officer on a weekly basis and was fortunate enough to be put forward for six interviews, all of which were office-based. This was something that just did not interest me. At the time my Dad worked at a golf club as a bar steward and he told me of an apprenticeship in greenkeeping which was coming up. I applied for it, knowing nothing about golf or what a greenkeeper actually did. I went for an interview and left

feeling really excited about working outdoors, working with machinery and being part of a team (all of whom were men, but I didn't stop to think about that). I then attended GOSTA for an aptitude test, which I passed, and there I was, a female apprentice greenkeeper at Colville Park, Motherwell!

Where did you do your training?

I spent over three years at Colville Park, learning all the aspects of greenkeeping. I attended GOSTA two days per week in the winter months, completing my SVQ Level 2 and

quickly followed onto SVQ Level 3. I seemed to understand and do the job really well, with the help of the head greenkeeper and his first assistant. GOSTA was a great influence on my career. Everyone was so encouraging and believed in me. The education side was first class and I believe I would not be where I am today without the knowledge I gained from the courses. Everything related to the workplace and I could take back what I had learned each week.

Where has your career taken you to work so far?

After my apprenticeship ended I took up my first qualified role as an assistant greenkeeper at Williamwood Golf Club. I then moved to Hamilton Golf Club where I was promoted to first assistant and it was here that I achieved my spraying and chainsaw certificates. After three years I moved down South, joining the team at Lilly Brook Golf Club in Cheltenham and after a couple of years moved to Shirley Golf Club in Birmingham, where I got my first managerial role. I was so pleased to hit this point in my career! I worked with a great course manager who had complete faith in my abilities. The day-to-day running of the course was such a pleasure and I enjoyed every minute.

I now work at Harborne Golf Club. I've been here for three years, working under the course manager, Jim Gilchrist, who is also my partner! You can imagine the conversation around the dinner table! We get on great and work brilliantly together.

The original article featuring Vicky

Vicky tees up a first for Modern Apprentices

A Lanarkshire greenkeeper is on course to lead the fairer sex into a new career on the fairway.

Vicky Cavinue is set to become Scotland's first female Modern Apprentice greenkeeper. The 18-year old from Motherwell, based at Colville Park Golf Club, is progressing onto the LGNTO managed Modern Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture after successfully completing her SVQ level 2.

And Vicky is teeing up to break new ground in a traditionally male-dominated profession, with the support of Lanarkshire Development Agency (LDA) and GOSTA Training.

She applied for the position of trainee greenkeeper in June 1997, despite having never even picked up

a golf club before. 'When I first started work, some people were quite surprised and stared at me. I suppose some people thought I wouldn't last, but I was determined to prove them wrong and now I think everyone has realised I can do the job as well as anybody' she said.

LDA and GOSTA Training have worked closely with LGNTO to promote this Modern Apprenticeship in the Lanarkshire Area.

LDA has an impressive record in relation to Modern Apprenticeships - in total, 1,750 young people are now training for Modern Apprenticeships in Lanarkshire, accounting for 18 per cent of the Modern Apprentices across the Scottish Enterprise Network.

GOSTA Training was one of the first LGNTO approved centres for the delivery of the Amenity Horticulture framework and provide training for over 70% of greenkeeping apprentices in Scotland.



Colville Park greenkeeper, Vicky Cavinue, is set to become Scotland's first female Modern Apprentice greenkeeper.

The job of a greenkeeper may be male dominated but it is certainly a career that a female can pursue. For example, if something is too heavy then you probably shouldn't be lifting it anyway!

How did you feel you were treated as a female within the industry back then and how about now?

When I first started my career back in Colville Park, I wasn't treated differently to the other guys and I feel that this helped me progress the way I did. Again, at Williamwood the other staff (all male) were great and treated me no differently. They were shocked by my physical ability as I weighed around seven stone and had a tiny frame — looks can be very deceiving!

There are obvious physical differences between male and female, but this was never an issue when it came to the job. What I lacked in muscle, I made up for in other ways! Now there is nothing I can't do that a male greenkeeper can.

Has your perception about being a female in a male-dominated industry changed over the years?

The job of a greenkeeper may be male-dominated but it is certainly a career that a female can pursue. For example, if something is too heavy then you probably shouldn't be lifting it anyway! There are many tasks which I carry out that males may find difficult, but working together as part of a team makes it all possible. I am just as strong as them in many ways!!

I have only ever been discriminated against by the older generation and I would receive comments here and there. For example "women never used to be allowed on the golf course to play, never mind work on it" or "should you be lifting that?" or "you might find it difficult in the winter because it gets really cold you

know". These are just a few of the things I've laughed off over the years. I found that the younger generation didn't see me any differently and would just carry on the way they would if I were a male.

If I wanted to stand out I probably could have, but I was there to learn a career and do it to the same standard no matter which sex I was.

I will always get the odd stare and shocked looked from time to time but I find it amusing.

We are looking to promote the industry to females in an effort to redress the gender imbalance. What advice would you give other women thinking about this type of career and how would you encourage them? Would you encourage them?

I would encourage any female considering a career in greenkeeping to go for it! The great outdoors and working with Mother Nature everyday can be a different challenge.

In greenkeeping there are many qualifications to achieve, great opportunities to work abroad and I find that simply just being part of

a team is very rewarding. Do not let gender be an issue – I never let it hold me back!

How do you cope with the physically demanding aspects of the job?

Five years ago I gave birth to my son George and this was the only time in my career where I had to take a step back and let others do things for me (heavy lifting etc).

I worked right up until a week before I gave birth, which proves that the job is manageable in many circumstances. I went back to work full time after eight months and was glad I did. My son is now five and I still have a brilliant career.

Being a mum has had no effect on what I do and why should it?

If you were starting out again, would you still make the same career choice?

I love it and would do it all over again. I have a wonderful family and the best job!

Vicky Cavinue



Vicky Cavinue



Cornwall: Coast to Coast

Laurence Pithie, MG

A distance of just 18 miles separates West Cornwall Golf Club, near St Ives on Cornwall's north coast, from Mullion Golf Club, located on the south coast and on the western edge of the Lizard peninsula.



The average rainfall on both sites is around 1080mm per annum (43ins), while temperatures and hours of sunlight are also similar.

However, West Cornwall enjoys a sheltered location on the western edge of the Hayle Estuary adjoining St.Ives Bay. A combination of nearby residential Carbis Bay and raised headland between the two coasts provides refuge from the strong south-westerly winds that play such an impact on this part of Cornwall.

The micro-climate enjoyed around the bay means that it is probably one of the mildest areas within the UK, and largely free of any frost.

Mullion, being a more cliff-top open links, often faces the full wrath of Atlantic storms and here there is no escape. Towering waves and storm surges upon the cove below the course are not uncommon and on some days it becomes nigh impossible to play golf.

However, since temperatures rarely drop below 5°C, growth is rarely suspended and there is never any need for temporary greens during the winter. Natural turf on both courses provide firm playing conditions all year round, each enjoying wonderful vistas over differing coast lines.



Left: 10th Green overlooking a sandy cove at Mullion

Right: Play continues while a train passes by West Cornwall

Continued over

West Cornwall



Formed in 1889 by a group of enthusiasts, **West Cornwall** is the oldest club in the county. The course is fairly undulating, with three holes located close to the estuary on the far side of the railway line; this bordering the course en-route from St Ives to Penzance.

A relic from World War Two is Dynamite Quay, located near the 5th green. This was where bombs were assembled and loaded onto boats before transportation to various military sites.

Most of the course is sited on free draining sand with a pH level of around 7, although the closing holes are more inland in nature and consist of a heavier soil mix. Grasses present have been described as being a 'league of nations', consisting mainly of fescue, coarse bents, rye and annual meadow grass.

Tasked with managing the course is Keith Kemp, who began his career at the age of 15. After a short spell at Truro, Keith returned to the club as assistant before being appointed as course manager in 2008.



Golfers putting out on 5th green next to Dynamite Quay at West Cornwall

Right: The 7th tee five months after sowing with creeping rye mix in November at West Cornwall

Far right: Keith Kemp



Keith Kemp

"West Cornwall is a popular and busy course with all-year-round play on greens and tees; this partially due to our sheltered location and micro-climate.

"The club's objectives are relatively simple; namely a golf course which is of a good standard 365 days per year and offering traditional 'running' links within a sustainable environment, albeit within budgetary limitations. It is my job to ensure this is delivered.

"To help me achieve this, I have a good team consisting of Nick, who not only is my deputy but also maintains our small fleet of modern equipment. My other staff members are Gavin Herne and Steven Elliot who can perform virtually all tasks expected, along with Wilson the course dog who keeps us on our toes!

"Although our range of equipment may be small in comparison to other courses, it is adequate for our needs, with front-line items replaced every five years. Grinding of reels and bed-knives are out-sourced, costing us £65 per unit."

Challenges & Work Practices

Keith Kemp

Having **all-year-round growth** is one of mixed blessings, since wear versus turf quality is our biggest challenge. Golfers expect firm, consistent surfaces at all times and this can prove challenging during the early part of the season when grasses are growing at different rates.

Being on sand is good for drainage, but tolerance to wear can be weak, which requires varying degrees of traffic management to limit any damage.

Rabbits have always been an issue on this site, although probably no different from other links courses, and they do require constant attention to keep any potential damage to a minimum.

In regards to agronomics, our general inputs here are low in comparison to most UK courses. Nutrient input on greens is around 40kgs/ha for both Nitrogen and Potassium, while topdressing is limited to about 80 tons per annum.

Water is generally applied via hand held hose as opposed to using overhead sprinklers; this enabling us to target water where necessary and maintain surfaces on the dry side to encourage deeper rooting.

We never **hollow-core** or scarify the greens, preferring to solid tine with 8 and 10mm tines, but varying the depth. This means minimal turf disturbance which the golfers appreciate.

Fungicide requirements are negligible, although last year we did spray for Dollar Spot, the first time in three years. We overseed with fescue at the end of the season using the 'Dyna-seeder' units in order to increase its content within the greens and collars. There is a fair degree of coarse grasses in many of the greens and the current method of control is via the use of brushes and verti-cut units, as opposed to applying a graminicide and the risk of losing too much grass cover.

One success we have had recently is the use of tetraploid 'creeping' rye. We sowed this on our 7th tee in November and it was playable by early April. Five months from seed to play is remarkable, but we do benefit from mild winters here in Cornwall.



Continued over



The course was laid out in 1895, firstly as nine holes before being extended to 18 prior to World War Two. It is the most southerly course within the UK mainland, being located on the cliffs above sandy coves and protected reed beds on land now owned by the National Trust.

Fabulous views towards Mousehole and St Michael's Mount can be seen on clear days and with its unique setting it is little wonder why literary giants such as Conan Doyle, AA Milne and AP Herbert found favour in spending their time here. RAF Culdrose, which is the largest helicopter base in Europe, is located just four miles north of Mullion.

Sited on 100 acres of land and at just over 6,000 yards, most of the course is on relatively level ground; the exception being two downhill and two uphill holes. The lower holes are of a free draining sandy soil, whereas those on higher ground consist of clay and shale mix where drainage has been installed.

Head Greenkeeper Gordon Tamblyn has managed Mullion since 1984, having worked previously at nearby Tehidy Park and Praa Sands courses.

Gordon Tamblyn

"This is a beautiful yet exposed site, where wind plays a key part in much of our work practices.

"We are a small club and although not blessed with nearby populated centres, we are a busy course, attracting golfers of all ages and ability who enjoy year round golf in a spectacular coastal setting.

"This is central to the club's objectives and it is my remit to provide the best possible playing standards with the resources available.

"Although there are just three of us to maintain the course, my deputy, Craig Pollard, and assistant, James Rendell, are knowledgeable and experienced in multi-tasking, which is an essential pre-requisite."



12th green a stunning coastline at Mullion





Mullion team of James, Gordon and Chris

Bunkers reduced in size to prevent erosion at Mullion



Challenges & Work Practices

Gordon Tamblyn

Our number one challenge is dealing with salt-laden winds, which affect greens and tees on the most exposed headlands. This has a negative impact on the native grasses, which are mainly a mix of fescues and rye, followed by coarse bents and annual meadow grass.

To counteract the build-up of any salt and a previously high pH level, we use gypsum and, in the past, liquid sulphur. More recently we have been overseeding greens and tees with salt tolerant cultivars of slender creeping red fescue, using our Sisis Vari-seeder to good effect.

I am conscious of the need to be as sustainable as possible in order to keep future maintenance costs to a minimum and while pesticide availability will inevitably reduce.

Dealing with leatherjackets may pose the greatest challenge for us, but fortunately fungicide and herbicide use is almost zero.

Water use on greens is limited to just 500,000 gallons per year, which means our soil moisture content varies between 15% and 20% throughout the year, although the top 20mm is generally drier.

Our fertiliser input is less than 40kgs of Nitrogen per Ha and along with the use of Mycorrhizal products, this has helped to establish fescue content and improve soil biology; further reducing the small 10mm depth of organic matter content.

We have now changed our topdressing to a 90:10 mix and although more expensive than straight sand, it works better in our exposed location.

Dealing with blown sand in large open bunkers has been a past issue, but this has now largely been resolved following years of reconstruction.

We now have 98 bunkers, but these are small and more 'pot' style in appearance, which means the sand is retained and we can quickly hand rake them, being on average just 50m² in size — just enough room for an 'angry man with a niblick', according to Bernard Darwin, I believe.

Another of our current challenges is to improve the content of our deep rough by reducing the amount of invasive Cocksfoot and Timothy using a graminicide and then cutting and collecting to reduce nutrient input. Our goal is to introduce more fescue and some wildflower species tolerant to our environment.

In conclusion

The geographical locations and unique environments pose different challenges for the two courses on Cornwall's north and south coasts. Club objectives and agronomic work practices may be similar, but each greenkeeping team has had to adapt to overcome the challenges faced.

Both teams consistently produce good and sustainable playing conditions with staff levels, budgetary constraints and lower inputs than that of much of the UK. The unique aspect about golf is that golfers of all ages and ability can play against each other on an even platform. Doing so in an enjoyable and natural environment, played on firm year round turf is a reminder of what is important to the future of the game.

In the shadow of ancient temples

Paul Jansen, course architect

Formerly Burma, Myanmar is a fascinating place. Golf was established here at Thayet GC in 1886 and has grown steadily ever since.

Today Myanmar has over 120 courses, with one in every large town and city. Most of these cost less than US\$5 to play and in some cases — like at Thayet — cost as little as US\$1 to play. The main reason for this is that golf courses in Myanmar were designed with “less is more” in mind.

None of the courses I visited were over designed nor overbuilt and because of this the maintenance need not be intensive. Since the design is simple and uncomplicated, this gives the golfer the opportunity

to appreciate the surroundings – which in many cases is spectacular.

At Bagan GC, ancient pagodas, built between 9–11AD, are dotted about the landscape and give the course a real sense of place which is hard to forget. They add immeasurable interest and cost little, if anything, to maintain, which can't be said for some of the modern features found on courses today. In fact, most of the world's great courses have unconventional features. Eccentric Golden Age architect Tom Simpson reiterated

this in his book, *The Architectural side of Golf*, published in 1929. He said: “Roads, railways, sheds and gardens may be thought unsatisfactory and unwelcome, yet they are often the essence of a course; take them away and the difference would at once be felt.”

It is important to note that most of the clubs in Myanmar have very limited maintenance budgets and have to make do with what they have.

This in many cases means rolling – and in some instances aerifying – the greens with manual equipment. They say necessity is the mother of invention, and this is clear for all to see in Myanmar, where fairway and rough mowing machinery is inventive at best.

Continued over





is not always a priority, with most of the maintenance staff wearing little if any safety gear. It should not come as a surprise to see local male maintenance staff mowing the course without much attire at all.

The largest concentration of golf courses in Myanmar can be found in Yangon (formally Rangoon) and most of these are in the vicinity of Yangon International Airport, where there eight courses.

Pun Hliang GC, named after the river it bounds, is the most modern course in the city and also hosts the Myanmar Open. The maintenance budget at Pun Hliang would be equal to a modern golf



Above left: Popa Golf Club – Cattle grazing on the golf course with the famous Popa Taungkalet Monastery in the distance

Above right: Casually mowing greens at the Shwesaryan Golf Resort



Cutting the rough areas at the Shwesaryan Golf Resort using a man made apparatus

The fact is these unusual looking machines still produce adequate playing conditions, so you could say with confidence that the end justifies the means.

Popa GC at the foothills of the impressive Mount Popa – and even more impressive Popa Taungkalat Monastery – is managed and maintained by the local community who also use the golf club facility for other recreational purposes and as a vehicle thoroughfare.

Playing golf at Popa is like a blast from the past with cattle roaming the course freely and proving adequate substitute for modern maintenance equipment.

Of course, cattle are much-needed, given the club only has one mowing machine.

However, each green complex has a manual roller and also a standalone body of water. The water serves many purposes, including as a drinking hole for the cattle roaming the golf course, a source for watering the greens, and a feature that adds strategic interest.

That aside, playing golf at Popa is an adventure. It's fun and engaging, which can't be said for thousands of other courses.

One other point I want to make about course maintenance in Myanmar is that health and safety

The fact is these unusual looking machines still produce adequate playing conditions, so you could say with confidence that the end justifies the means.

Playing golf at Popa is like a blast from the past with cattle roaming the course freely and proving adequate substitute for modern maintenance equipment.



course found in the western world, given the types of hazards and level of maintenance.

However, while Pun Hliang may be the best maintained course in Myanmar, it is certainly not the most interesting, characterful and fun to play.

The majority of courses in Yangon have greens made of zoysia matrella, known as Japan grass. Zoysia matrella grows well in the shade, is relatively drought tolerant and is native to the region. This grass also requires less input than the typical bermuda and paspalum grasses you see on most courses throughout South East Asia.

These surfaces can be maintained at a good standard, even with limited machinery. Most clubs use walk behind mowers to cut the greens and standard gang mowers for cutting the fairway and rough grass areas.

Yangon GC is the city's oldest club, founded in 1909. It is also the most popular, with around 70,000 rounds per year.

The club recently converted its fairways from broadleaf carpet grass to zoysia matrella. They do not have an irrigation system, instead labourers are used to water the course. Fortunately, zoysia matrella requires much less water input than the non-native grasses used on most courses throughout South East Asia.

Of course, the most sustainable of all the grasses is broadleaf carpetgrass, which is also very popular and used at about 90% of the courses I visited in and around Yangon, including Myanmar GC — my favourite. As with the Bagan region, unconventional fairway and rough mowing machinery is used to maintain most of the grass areas and irrigation is also mobile.

My travels to Myanmar and around Asia have highlighted the fact that the quality of the golf experience is not necessarily a product of the quality of the playing fields, but rather the uniqueness and originality of the golf holes and the beauty of the surrounds.

Of course, a well-maintained

course is paramount, but often this is achievable with less inputs and sometimes inventive equipment.

As the game continues to develop, it is my hope that the unique identity of courses, such as those I found in Myanmar, are not lost, as this would almost certainly make the game less attractive.

Watering tees and greens at the Shwesaryan Golf Resort. Most of this is done by ladies.





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BTME 2018



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'Our greatest year ever'

When the exhibition space sold out in record time, back in September, and then places on the Continue to Learn education programme booked out faster than ever before, it was clear that BTME 2018 was going to be something special.

And the exhibition didn't disappoint, with 4,402* visitors heading through the halls of the Harrogate Convention Centre.

The town was once again abuzz with BIGGA members and those at all levels of the turf management profession lighting up the town for a week.

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton said: "We've had a great few days with record numbers in the education. It's been really buzzing in the seminars and workshops.

"Out in the halls the last few days have been absolutely packed, too full in fact, and there has probably not been quite enough room for everyone, but there's been great feedback so far. Thank you to everyone who made BTME 2018 such a huge success, and let's build on this momentum to make the coming year our best ever."

As always, Continue to Learn kicked off the week, with 78 seminars and workshops being conducted by more than 60 speakers from all over the world.

For the first time ever, we saw the Young Greenkeepers' Committee host a conference with education intended for those just starting out on their careers. Other major education events included the BTME Breakfast Club: Cutting Edge Turf Management, while there were celebrations of the UK greenkeeping industry at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration and a host of other associated events.

Read on to find out more about what happened at BTME 2018.

*unaudited figures

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BIGGA Welcome Celebration 2018

In association with Textron Golf

BTME



Naga Munchetty



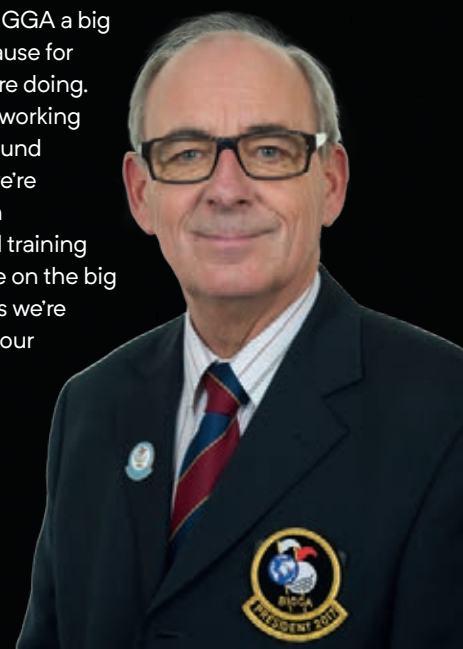
Ian Moore

Hosted by Naga Munchetty and featuring entertainment from comedian Ian Moore, the BIGGA Welcome Celebration sponsored by Textron Golf saw extra seating opened up for the first time ever to accommodate the more than 400 people who attended.



Sid Arrowsmith MG, reflects on his year as BIGGA President

"The main joy of the year has simply been meeting fellow greenkeepers, discussing their issues and their problems and the way they're going to go about solving them. I would have to give BIGGA a big round of applause for the work they're doing. They've been working in the background making sure we're equipped with education and training in order to take on the big responsibilities we're tasked with in our daily job."



Jim Croxton with BIGGA Photographic Competition winner, Mike Ray



Les Howkins MG with Mal Mitchell

Amenity Forum's sprayer operator of the year

The prestigious title of Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year was won by Nathan Hume, contracts manager and ecologist for SH Goss Ltd.

"It was a nice honour to receive the award," said Nathan. "Myself and the company have always followed best practice, so it's a nice justification that we are doing things right."



Presented for the first time at BTME, the ASOY Awards are organised by the Amenity Forum and sponsored by ICL and Syngenta, in association with BASIS.

The other category winners were Chris Phillips and Lee Harrison, both from Complete Weed Control.

BIGGA Achievements

R&A Gold Badges

Stuart Yarwood, Stewart Brown and Andy O'Hara

The R&A's gold badges are awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to the R&A Scholarship programme. Only seven gold badges had been previously awarded to date, so to have three on one night is a huge achievement.



BIGGA Life Members

Sid Arrowsmith MG | Frank Scullion | Ian Willett



Brian Stielher MG

Highlands CC, North Carolina

"I had a great time and was happy to spend it with my family as well. Harrogate is a beautiful town and the restaurants are second to none! My wife and daughter were sad to leave and probably spent more time in Betty's Tea House than anywhere else!"



"I didn't know what to expect from BTME at first, compared to the Golf Industry Show. However, I liked how it was broken up into the different rooms. It was more intimate setting and easier to find vendors.

"The Welcome Celebration was over the top! I haven't really experienced anything like that, in that kind of setting. It was an honour to receive my Master Greenkeeper certificate in front of all the greenkeepers that attended.

"I admire my peers in the UK for the job they do. There is a lot of great talent and passion for this industry in the UK. Coming to BTME became a goal of mine since 1999 when I was a Penn State student working on the Old Course at St Andrews. Receiving my MG award with Walter Woods in attendance was also very special to me."

BIGGA Greenkeeping Benevolent Fund

Mal Mitchell was honoured at the Welcome Celebration after raising £7,000 for the BIGGA Benevolent Fund, amounting to the biggest single donation the fund has ever received. Mal organised a golf day, held at Patshull Park, and all his hard work paid off, as the event was a huge success.

BIGGA Photographic Competition

Mike Ray, Stoneham



Continuing Professional Development Milestones

Forty-eight BIGGA members achieved their first milestone throughout 2017, six received their second, and three received their third. One member, Craig Boath from this year's Open venue, Carnoustie, received his fourth Milestone certificate.

The BIGGA Awards

From the host of the European Tour's flagship event and one of the world's most famous golf clubs, to the UK's most north-westerly — and one of the most remote — courses, where just one young greenkeeper works to maintain the facility, the BIGGA Awards showcased the sheer breadth and scale of the association's membership.

We had a huge amount of nominations for the annual awards, which continue to grow in popularity each year, and each of the nine finalists convened at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration to see who would be crowned the winners.

**Championship
Greenkeeping
Performance of the Year
sponsored by Rigby
Taylor**



The greenkeeping team at The Wentworth Club in Virginia Water was recognised for its incredible performance in preparing the course for the BMW PGA Championship 2017.

The redesign of Wentworth's famous West Course was a mammoth undertaking, with Director of Estates and Golf Courses Kenny Mackay and his team tasked with ensuring the changes were implemented ahead of the championship in May 2017.

Kenny said: "We have a very close-knit team and the biggest challenge we had was preparing the greens for the tournament.

"When the new owners came in, we put a plan together. There was a lot of work behind the scenes and all that research came off. It was two years in the making to get here, and I'm delighted to accept this award on behalf of the team in recognition of their efforts."

The other finalists were the greenkeeping teams at Moor Allerton, near Leeds, and Dundonald Links.

Kenny Mackay and his team, winners of the Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year Award





Neil McLoughlin and his team, winners of the Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year Award

Alistair Morrison, winner of the Young Greenkeeper of the Year Award

Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year sponsored by Baroness

BARONESS
Quality on Demand

Led by Course Manager Neil McLoughlin, the greenkeeping team was recognised for its continuing efforts to restore the course following heavy storms that hit the UK in 2015.

When Storm Frank hit Aberdeenshire the day before New Year's Eve, it caused the River Dee to reach record levels, three times covering the course in a thick layer of silt and debris.

In the aftermath, the team was able to get 10 holes reopened after just 77 days and the clean-up saw over six tonnes of grass seed laid down, 10,000m² of turf laid and all 98 bunkers rebuilt, using 3,000 tonnes of sand for topdressing and bunkers.

During 2017 the hard work continued, with the silt layer impeding drainage. Over 400m of drainage was installed and a programme of scarification and

topdressing helped break down the silt layer further.

Neil said: "It's a real honour to win this award. Storm Frank came in and devastated the whole Dee Valley and the golf course ended up in a hell of a state. We do flood quite a lot, but generally we call them clean floods — the water comes in and goes out, but that year the Dee rose to a record level and brought so much of the soil and everything else with it and deposited it on the golf course.

"Without these guys we wouldn't have got the golf course back open so quickly, so hats off to all of them. It's been nice to bring all these guys down with me."

The other finalists for the award were Andrew Brougham, head greenkeeper of Astbury, and Stuart Imeson, course manager at Dunstanburgh Castle.

BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the Year sponsored by Textron Golf

TEXTRON GOLF

Twenty-five year old Alistair Morrison is head greenkeeper — he's actually the only full-time member of the greens team — at Durness Golf Club, the most north-westerly course on mainland Britain.

As such, the role requires a huge amount of dedication and commitment, and yet Alistair has also found time for his own personal development, having volunteered at three European Tour events.

Alistair said: "I'm absolutely delighted to have won. I certainly never expected this! I'm from a small village of around 300 people and as a small community you get to know everyone at the club. They're all friends, family, neighbours, and I'm delighted to have been able to represent them on such a massive scale."

Alistair began his career as an apprentice at Brora, before moving back to his hometown club at Durness.

The other finalists in the award were Angus Roberts of Roxburghe and Carl Sharp of Royal Mid-Surrey.

Your Course

Did you spot BIGGA's latest publication at BTME?

During the exhibition we launched Your Course, a fantastic new magazine that will educate golfers on the work of the nation's greenkeepers.

Alongside our partners at Sports Publications, the magazine will be published twice a year and distributed to every golf course in the country.

Headlining the first issue was Ryder Cup player and former BMW PGA Champion Chris Wood.

Chris is a life member at Long Ashton, where good friend James Braithwaite is course manager. Chris has known James his entire golfing career, and said: "The more I've got to know James, the more I've got to understand his frustrations.

"Everyone thinks the Masters marks the start of British summertime and the start of the golf season, but it isn't really, it's still bloody cold. So, everyone has a late Sunday night watching Augusta and turns up to their club the following weekend and the greens have been hollowtined and it is a long way from what they've seen on the TV.

"It's all about understanding that a course in the UK will be in its prime from June to maybe October. But you have to realise that you are going to get five months of decent conditions and the rest will be a bit of a struggle."

We'll also be posting out copies of the magazine to every head greenkeeper and course manager who is a member of BIGGA and we'd encourage you to make sure it gets seen by the golfers at your club.



John Deere

TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme

For the first time ever, six BIGGA members got together at BTME in anticipation of their trip to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, where they will join the course preparation team ahead of THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass.

This year the programme was expanded to allow a sixth member to take part, from BIGGA's International membership.

The BIGGA volunteers are: Paul Armour, Dunbar; Joe Barnes, Royal Lytham & St Annes; Nicholas Thorley, Long Ashton; Jamie Blake, Broadway; Antony Kirwan, Aldeburgh and Craig Cameron, St Leon Rot.

John Deere and the Ladies European Tour

John Deere and the Ladies European Tour chose BTME as the venue to announce the renewal of their partner agreement.

Ladies European Tour chairman Mark Lichtenhein attended the opening day of BTME 2018 to announce John Deere would remain the Tour's official supplier of golf course maintenance equipment.

He said: "We are delighted that John Deere has decided to extend its relationship with the Ladies European Tour for the next two years, beyond the 2019 Solheim Cup at Gleneagles. This is a testament to our enduring partnership since 2006 and demonstrates the alignment of our brands and our joint objective to ensure a bright future for the women's game."



The John Deere TPC Sawgrass volunteers

Turf Managers' Conference

Held on Monday 22 January, the Turf Managers' Conference provided an array of education, from world class speakers.

With topics varying from greens speeds and how they can vary throughout a course, to the tactics of being an efficient team leader, the conference showed the breadth of knowledge required to be a modern day course manager or head greenkeeper.

Jeremy Marchant, specialist in emotional intelligence, was speaking at Continue to Learn for the first time. He said he was surprised at how interested BIGGA members were in a topic that wasn't directly greenkeeping-related, and how ready they were to embrace new ideas.

He added: "I was nicely surprised by the degree of interest, just watching people's body language as I was talking. There was a lot of interest, and I was primed for that because people told me how much the members of BIGGA are interested in their personal development and how much they're ready and willing to find out new stuff. It was a really rewarding experience to see that degree of interest."



Gareth Jones



Mark Hunt



Micah Woods

The Turf Managers' Conference, held in the Majestic Hotel, was compered by BBC Radio Leeds sports editor and former BIGGA employee Gareth Jones, who enjoyed his reintroduction to the world of greenkeeping.

"I was really excited to come back, when Sami asked me to be involved," said Gareth. "Seeing the amount of work that goes into BTME and into the education over the next couple of days. It was always one of my most favourite times of the year, and coming back I got that buzz again. It has reminded me just how important this event is to the whole industry."

Chris Kennedy

BIGGA President 2018

BTME

Ken Schofield, former executive director of the European Tour

"To those of us privileged to work at the PGA European Tour over the long haul, Chris Kennedy is a true legend. We first encountered Chris at Hags Castle during the inaugural Glasgow Classic and initial Scottish Open. Chris presented the course in immaculate condition – with the greens voted by the tour players among the very best anywhere on the schedule.

When Mr Willie Bauer, then managing director of Wentworth Club, asked to

come over to my office to seek our guidance in appointing a new greens superintendent, he asked us to name the top three men in the country – and of course Chris was on that list.

The rest, as they say, is history!

Year-after-year Chris presented the West course in near-perfect condition for both the PGA Championship and the World Match Play Championship. He is a remarkable gentleman, a legend in many, if not all, golfing establishments – and more than that, a loyal, true friend."

In this country you have two sides of the camp. You have the likes of Wentworth, Queenwood and Beaverbrook, and then you have got the other side, the R&A venues, where you are hearing golf has got to be sustainable, so don't over-fertilise, don't overwater.

But primarily golf has got to be there for everybody and the trouble is there's a lot of kids not taking the game up, which is sad, and it is no secret that a lot of golf clubs are struggling. Some of the numbers I am hearing of clubs that have closed down in the last two years is frightening, but it's all to do with cost.

I was talking to the boys on the stands from the colleges and they are saying they are even struggling to find students. I used to get students from all the colleges every year for the summer season, with a view to giving them a job at the end of it, but even that's drying up.

Is greenkeeping still a job that is not attractive to students?

The big problem is the top jobs are good, but if you are at a normal club with four or five other staff, the salary scales are not fantastic

Awarded life membership of BIGGA in 2013, Chris Kennedy enjoyed one of the most star-studded careers of any greenkeeper in history.

He spent 22 years as golf courses manager at Wentworth, retiring in 2012, where he presented the course for 52 professional events.

When he moved to Wentworth, Chris spoke about the need to "crack a few eggs". After being appointed BIGGA president for 2018, he's hoping to have an equally impactful year.

Have you stayed in contact with the industry since you retired?

I still keep in contact with boys that worked with me — Ian Morrison at The Berkshire, Jim McKenzie at Celtic Manor, Michael Mann at Walton Heath and all the other guys. I also come to BTME every year and we often attend the Golf Industry Show in America.

Does not having your own course to concentrate on, give you greater clarity about the state of the industry?

If you don't have to look at the day-to-day running of courses, it gives you more opportunity to investigate changes in thinking and developments in technology.

'If greenkeepers are treated as second-rate citizens, they lose interest and don't give their best.'

nedy

‘The most valuable lesson I have learned in greenkeeping, is never put off until tomorrow what can be done today.’

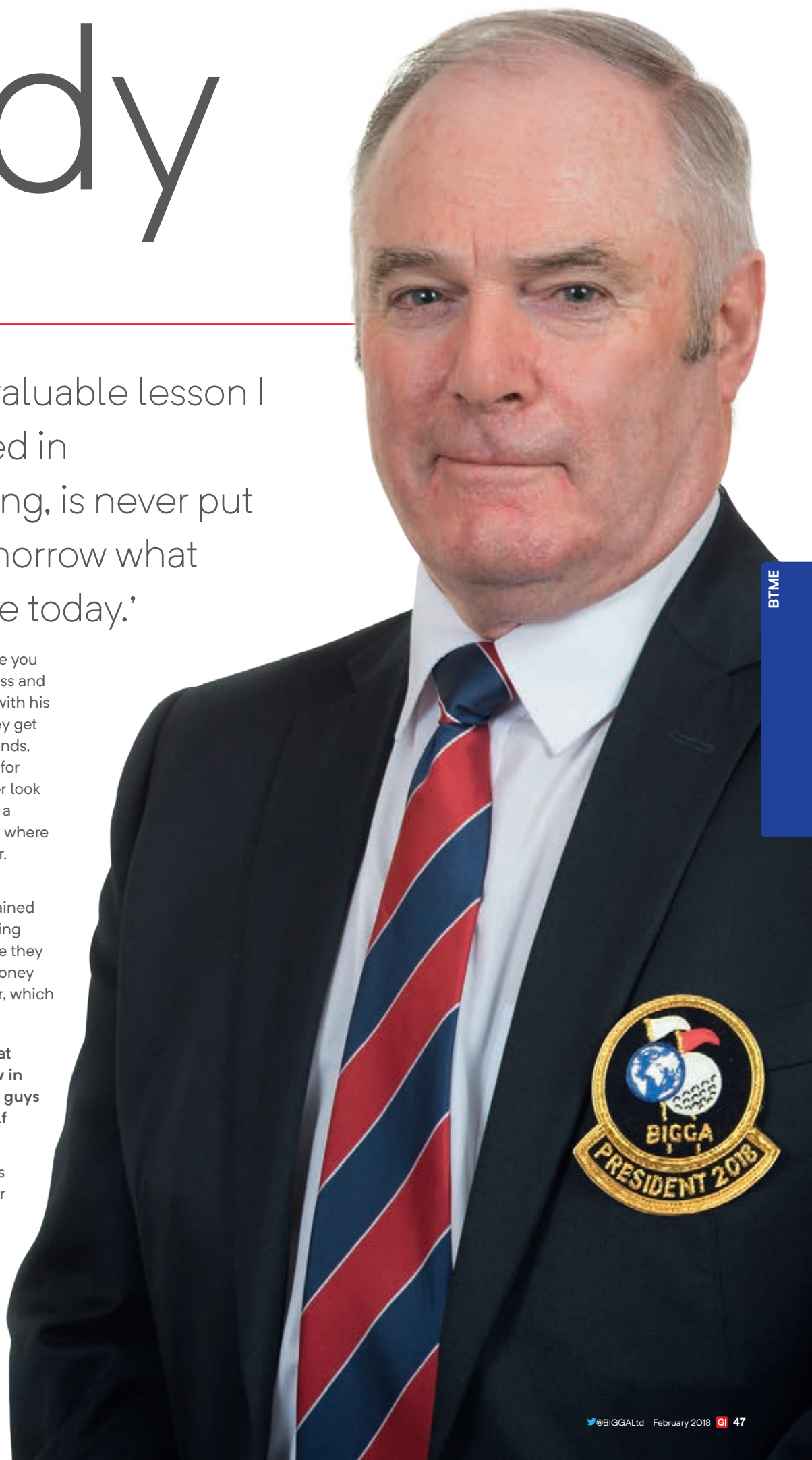
and the lower down the line you are, the more it becomes less and less. A single guy can live with his parents, but the minute they get involved with wives, girlfriends, children, they have to look for something else. They either look to leave the industry or get a promotion at a bigger club, where the salary range was higher.

We lost a lot of staff to Heathrow airport, where trained greenkeepers would be doing baggage handling, because they were making double the money they were as a greenkeeper, which is sad but it's a fact.

You spent your entire life at higher end courses — how in touch have you been with guys at the other end of the golf club spectrum?

I regularly meet up with boys that I trained that are at other clubs. Everybody can't have a big job, that's the bottom line. I have guys in Scotland at 18-hole golf clubs,

Continued over



BTME

“Shoddy workmanship should never be tolerated... bad news travels fast.”

Jim Gilmore and Neil MacLennan and a couple of guys in Ireland, South Africa, France, Switzerland, Australia, Dubai.

The way forward is to get good training, work at a good club, and then get on the ladder to get your own club. But a lot of guys just don't want to leave home. I could have been down south years before, but I was married and I had a young daughter and my wife didn't want to go. Some people just don't want to leave their home towns, which is just part and parcel of life.

What's more important — to work at a good club or under a good manager?

I always think in greenkeeping, like in life, it's 40% skill, 20% location, and the rest luck. If the city of Glasgow hadn't decided to have a competition, if Haggs Castle hadn't decided to get Peter Alliss and Dave Thomas to build that golf course, knowing that Glasgow wanted a European Tour event, I wouldn't have had the career that I had. It was just luck.

I was so lucky because I knew Bernhard Gallagher way back, up in Scotland, and working with him at Wentworth was a dream because he introduced me to all the right guys, the Seves, all the Ryder Cup guys. I owe Bernhard a big debt of gratitude as I was fortunate enough that he asked me to help out at the Ryder Cup at Kiawah Island, The Belfry, Oak Hill and then Seve asked me to carry on with Ken Schofield at Valderrama. I was involved with the teams and course set up and I was involved with checking out the course and things such as greenspeeds.

Where do you hope BIGGA goes, going forward?

BIGGA has improved 100% in terms of numbers and quality. The one big worry I have is

unfortunately golf's not popular with youngsters. There's a lot more for children to be involved in — gymnastics, swimming, cycling, electronic games, all sorts of stuff. We are competing with a lot more. I just lived for golf and I played golf from when I was 11 years of age, but my father introduced me to it. He was a member at Cowglen and he introduced me to it there.

BIGGA is all about people, and if people don't communicate and talk to each other it would be a sad day, because that's what this whole thing is built on, its people.

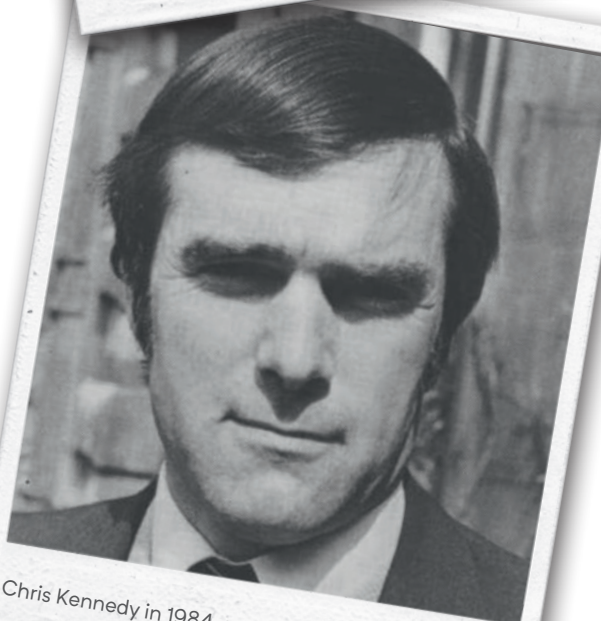
We have got a good HQ, a good staff, Jim Croxton and the board are doing a great job, but people need to talk and communicate. You have got a wealth of knowledge and it's up to the younger greenkeepers to come forwards and introduce themselves and say I'm interested in taking my career forwards, which direction should I go? Or speak to their course manager or their head greenkeeper and ask what they can do to progress.

Everybody, and I feel strongly about this, everybody can't be a course manager or a first assistant. You need people in the field doing the day-to-day work. Don't feel you are a second-rate citizen if you never become a head greenkeeper or a deputy head greenkeeper.

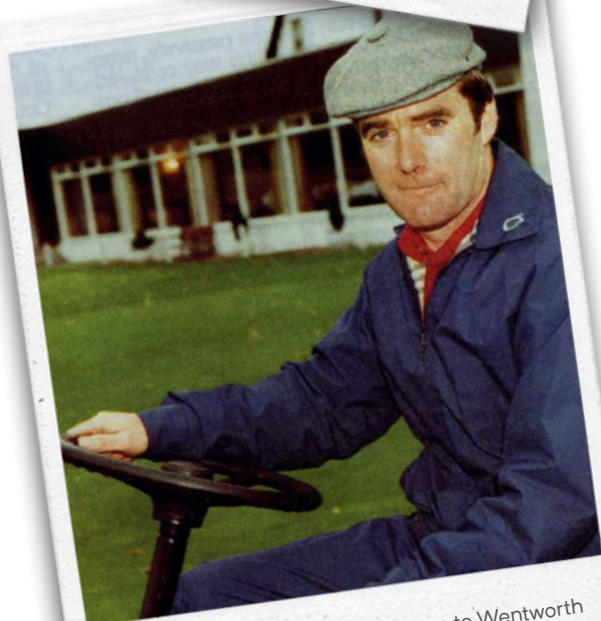
If you are good and you enjoy your job and you are happy with your quality of life and your lifestyle, then don't beat yourself up about it. I would never have got where I did if I didn't build a team around me over a number of years and we all need foot soldiers to do the work. You can't fight armies with colonels and I would stress that, because a lot of young people get disillusioned early in their careers, causing them to leave the industry, which is very sad.



Chris Kennedy at Haggs Castle in 1984



Chris Kennedy in 1984



Chris Kennedy in 1989 ahead of move to Wentworth

President's Lunch



Chris Kennedy giving Sid Arrowsmith MG a gift of thanks for his work in 2017



Walter Woods BEM and Caroline Woods



Jack McMillan MBE, Claire Campbell and Rita McMillan

Annual General Meeting 2018

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 23 January in the Harrogate International Centre's Queen's Suite.

The AGM is an opportunity for BIGGA members to have a say in how the association is run, with full members able to vote on matters arising.

Changes to the board were confirmed at the meeting, with Chris Kennedy being sworn in as president to succeed Sid Arrowsmith MG. Chris Sheehan of West Derby was appointed vice president.



Les Howkins MG with Sid Arrowsmith MG



Chris Sheehan, Chris Kennedy and Les Howkins MG



Scott Reeves

Scott Reeves, course manager at Leyland in Lancashire and current Northern Region director for BIGGA has been appointed by the board to succeed Les Howkins MG as BIGGA Chairman when his term concludes in January 2019.

Scott, who joined the BIGGA National Board in 2016, said: "I am delighted and honoured to be proposed as chairman of BIGGA from 2019. The whole board is committed to supporting our staff as they prepare for future challenges, particularly the next BTME. Les Howkins MG has been an exemplary chairman and he has set the bar very high for his successors. I am extremely grateful to him for all the guidance and support he has shown me over the last three years.

"Although I am thrilled to accept the appointment, I'm not the sort of person to spend too long congratulating myself. The role of regional board representative is extremely important, and I must

remain focussed on the Northern Region for the next 12 months.

"Being part of BIGGA is about service to me, it is about giving something back to an organisation which has given me so much. I look forward to serving our members and helping BIGGA lead the way in the sportsturf industry."



BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhard and Company

The annual reception hosted by Bernhard and Company took place at the Majestic Hotel on Wednesday evening.

The reception saw the 2018 BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show brought together for the first time, where they were also introduced to the former delegates who had previously benefitted from the support from Bernhard & Company.

Steve Nixon, director of Bernhard and Company, said: "We are very proud to be supporting the BIGGA delegation again this year. The calibre of the application has been very high and we hope these up-and-coming greenkeepers will learn as much as they can to take their career further."

A place on the delegation will see the BIGGA members flown to the Golf Industry Show, the GCSAA-organised educational conference taking place in San Antonio during February.



The delegates for 2018 are: Stuart Adams, Cardigan; Craig Berry, St Andrews Links Trust; James Bonfield, The Hertfordshire; Thomas Jacques, Royal Lytham & St Annes; Richard Johnstone, Nairn Dunbar; Jamie Martin, Gifford; Tom Smith, Wickham Park; Timothy Lewis Sethi, Golfpark Zurichsee; David Warner, Woking; Andy Whyman, Allerton Manor.



Sami Strutt, BIGGA's Head of Member Development with the ICL Scholars

ICL Scholars

The ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship offers five BIGGA members the opportunity to attend the Continue to Learn at BTME education programme.

The scholarship, worth approximately £500, comprises three nights' hotel education and a 15-hour education bundle.

This year's ICL Scholars were: Daniel Ashelby, Wilmslow; Michael Barnard, The Royal Automobile Club; Philip Billingham, Woburn; Michael Hughes, Scotsraig; Simon Pyett, Halesworth.

Daniel was able to attend BTME and Continue to Learn for the first time thanks to the scholarship and said: "I found it really good, it was brilliant. I have always wanted to go to BTME, but I wouldn't have been able to go to the extent I did without this support, and the education I saw was absolutely fantastic.

"I would like to say thank you to ICL for their continued support. They made it all very stress free and made me be able to concentrate on all the education. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me."

Kevin Whitby, ICL's marketing communications manager, said: "We were delighted to be able to meet the five BIGGA Continue to Learn Scholars we sponsored at BTME 2018. The feedback we received has been fantastic and it's

great to hear how the education experience and networking opportunities at BTME 2018 have been so useful to a group that may not necessarily have been able to attend the week if the scholarship scheme was not in place."

ICL also chose BTME to launch a website and app for the increasingly-popular Turf Rewards scheme.

Customers earn points through buying certain products, which can be redeemed to claim a wide array of rewards from iPads to Continue To Learn vouchers to turf management equipment.

"The Turf Rewards scheme has been very popular," added Whitby. "It's a customer reward scheme so people buy our products or Syngenta's products and once you get so many points they can be redeemed.

"We've got some new products in there so that along with the new website and app have been the big things we've launched this year. The reception's been really good. We've been delighted. I spoke to a colleague and we think it's one of the best ones we've done ever. It seems to be permanently busy we've been really pleased."



Tacit

It wasn't all innovation at Tacit, who provided a return to days gone by with a wicker basket, once commonly used instead of golf course flags.

Amy Fetters, social media and marketing at Tacit Golf, explained: "This is our new basket top for hickory golf clubs. It's a traditional basket that always used to be used on golf courses before flags came into being, and they're coming back into fashion, so we thought we'd display it at the event!"

"BTME is great. It's so interesting to meet so many people from so many places and all sorts of other countries. I never realised it was so many halls, it's a lot bigger than I thought!"



TYM Tractors

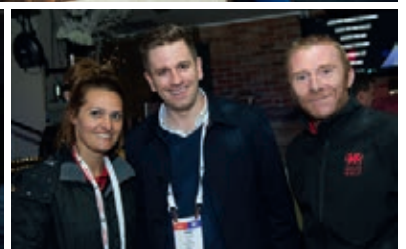
For the first time, TYM Tractors had its own stand at BTME 2018 to accommodate the range after experiencing considerable expansion in 2017.

Steven Haynes, sales manager for the brand, which is distributed in the UK by Reesink Turfcare, said: "Reesink introduced the TYM brand to the UK six years ago and it's been very well received by the market in that time. Brand development has been progressive and we're now in the perfect position to enhance our focus on the opportunities for our dealers across the country."



Golf Business and Industry Convention

GolfBIC Drinks Reception hosted by the UKGCOA
Ivory Bar, Wednesday 24 January





Bayer Turf Science talks

The Bayer Turf Solutions team brought major on-stand talks to BTME for what is believed to have been the first time.

In the vein of the bitesize 'TED Talks', a series of short talks took place at stand A46, where the subject of 'Life after Iprodione' was discussed.

Greg Collins, Bayer. "For the first time at BTME we have been delivering talks on our stand, and they have been very successful. The reason behind giving these talks is we can get specific messages out to our turf audience and we can relay exactly what's going on from a regulatory perspective.

"The talks this year have been focussed on life after Iprodione, which is an ingredient of Chipco Green and Interface. Those products are leaving the market and turf managers are going to have to change their approach to disease management, and that's what these talks have been all about, that prevention is better than a cure."

Iprodione was officially withdrawn from the market in November 2017. The sale of the product is permitted until March 2018, and greenkeepers then have three months, up to 5 June, to use up all stocks.

What did you think...

"I was surprised by how good the Young Greenkeepers' Conference was, that was really successful. It's my fifth time at Harrogate but that was very beneficial and I think it'll be even better next year."

Tom Wright, greenkeeper, Long Ashton



BTME 'tweetup'

Visitors to BTME who are active on Twitter took the opportunity to meet at the show for a 'BTME tweetup' organised by Dr John Dempsey (@J_J_Dempsey), course manager at Royal Curragh in Ireland, and turf industry marketer, Ellie Parry (@groundsmaiden).

The get-together was hosted by exhibitor GKB Machines, who provided coffee and goodie bags to those who gathered to put Twitter names to faces and meet other industry professionals.

Ellie introduced the idea to BTME four years ago after attending the Golf Industry Show in America. She said: "The global turf industry community uses social media extensively to share knowledge, ideas and information about their work. It's great to meet the people we usually tweet and I'd like to thank those who came along."

Tom Shinkins from GKB Machines (@Gkbmachinesltd) explained why he offered to host the event. He said: "Social media is an important marketing tool for us, giving us the ability to connect with turf professionals 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's constantly evolving and a great way of finding out about industry developments."



BTME 2018 provided an opportunity for retiring ClearWater directors Andy Vincent and David Mears to say their goodbyes after a 25-year stint at BTME.

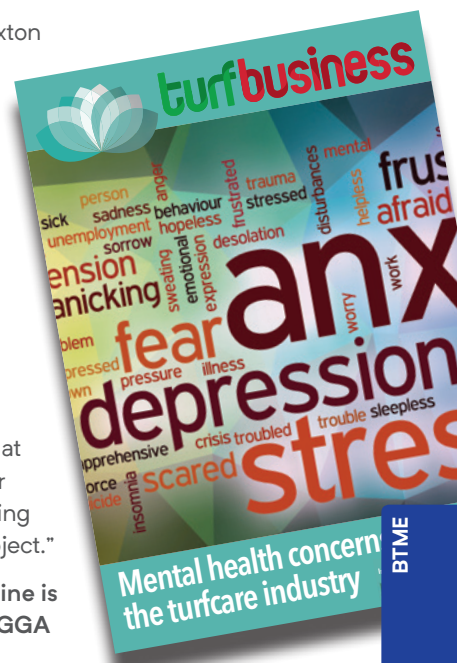
The ClearWater system was won by Crosland Heath GC, a heathland course on the outskirts of Huddersfield. Head Greenkeeper Richard Holmes said: "We're very happy to be compliant now. ClearWater is something we have wanted for a long time, and something we have strived towards."



BIGGA has worked alongside Turf Business and Perennial to produce a new document discussing mental health within the turfcare industry.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "As an association dedicated to serving its members, BIGGA recognises these problems and is committed to doing all we can to improve matters for golf greenkeepers. Congratulations therefore to the guys at Turf Business for their excellent work in raising awareness of this subject."

A confidential helpline is also available for BIGGA members at 0333 000 2082.



Young Greenkeepers' Conference

The Young Greenkeepers' Committee was set up to ensure BIGGA is providing the support required and to bring a fresh perspective to the association, helping to ensure the needs of all members are met.

And at BTME 2018, the YGC held its first national conference, designed to help young greenkeepers network and meet with like-minded individuals while providing invaluable greenkeeping insights.

Tom Smith, chairman of the Young Greenkeepers' Committee, was blown away by the reaction to the conference. He said: "It's been absolutely amazing. We've been working on this for the last year and really wanted to get people involved. To have more than 70 people here on our first go is fantastic."

"It's been great to get young guys in a room and give something to them that they wouldn't normally have at the show.

"It can be quite intimidating at BTME for some of the young lads and that's why we've had our own separate event for them to come to."

Tuesday saw a career development session, before on Wednesday four speakers gave talks on social media, course management, career progression and more, which Tom believes will go a long way towards inspiring the next generation.

"People come to us wanting to know how they get to the next stage in their career and we aim to help them with that," he said. "Having the likes of James Bledge, the course manager at Royal Cinque Ports, come in here and inspire people is great. If our attendees take anything away, it's seeing guys like that, who've been in their position and gone on to be a course manager at a top golf club.

"BIGGA has been massive to our development. They created the committee in 2015 and two-and-a-half years later they're still very supportive."

After a successful first conference, Tom laid out the YGC's plans for the next 12 months.

Scenes from the YGC Conference



The 2018 YGC Committee members



"I would like to see the conference back again next year," he said. "We've got more Bunker Camps planned, turf events, education events. The South West & South

'It's been absolutely amazing. We've been working on this for the last year and really wanted to get people involved. To have more than 70 people here on our first go is fantastic.'

Tom Smith, Young Greenkeepers' Committee Chairman





Wales Region is hosting breakfast clubs and there are a few other things in the pipeline."

Bill Whybrow, a BIGGA member and greenkeeper at Garon Park, said he was "very impressed" with the conference.

"It's bringing a lot of greenkeepers together from all over the country," said Bill. "I bumped into someone who I met at The Open and then, with the likes of Twitter, it's a way of connecting with people you don't see on a regular basis and you get to put some faces to names."

"The networking side of things is genuinely brilliant. It's been very good speaking with some people you might only see on social media, and now you get to speak to them in person."

"I've been very impressed with how far the Young Greenkeepers Committee has come along to now have its first national conference."

"It helps with education and development as well. It shows how many more qualifications are out there that you might not have known about before."



Rigby Taylor

Competition winners

Following Rigby Taylor's 2017 Autumn Fungicide Promotion, the winner of the top prize, a Gambetti Pro 300 Tractor Mounted Sprayer, was Formby Golf Club and course manager Paul Swift.

Formby's secretary Stuart Leech, along with Paul Swift and members of the club's greens committee, were congratulated by Jim Croxton at a BTME presentation ceremony. Paul also won an expenses-paid trip to attend the GCSAA convention and trade show in San Antonio, Texas.

As part of the promotion, the Rigby Taylor representative who recommended the fungicide programme, based on Bayer's Exteris Stressguard fungicide, to the club will also be travelling with Paul the USA.

There were five competition runner-ups: Leicester City FC and Moor Hall, Hindhead, Ralston and Enfield golf clubs. Each club will receive an Evolution knapsack sprayer and the course managers a Bayer Helly Hansen waterproof jacket.



From right to left, David Weir, Paul Swift, Jim Croxton, Stuart Leech and two members of club's greens committee

Rigby Taylor partners with Rain Bird

Global manufacturer of irrigation products and services, Rain Bird, chose BTME to announce the appointment of Rigby Taylor as its golf products distributor for the UK market.

The partnership will see golf course managers continue to access products through approved Rain Bird contractors, but they will also receive additional support and after-sales service from Rigby Taylor's 50-strong sales force.

Jimmy Sandison, regional golf sales manager for Rain Bird in the UK, Ireland, Iceland and Scandinavia, said: "We want to produce the very best levels of service and support to all our customers. By having Rigby Taylor in place as a strong UK distribution partner for our golf course

irrigation products, contractors and course managers will benefit from a quicker, more efficient service."

Chris Clark, Rigby Taylor's executive chairman, said: "The coming together of two of the major names in the industry will bring significant synergistic benefits and our high-skilled field personnel will be working closely with Rain Bird's UK team and their contractors to further establish this exciting range of products as the UK's brand leader."



TurfNet

The US-based TurfNet brought 16 members to BTME. Representing top clubs from Chicago, California and the Northeast US, the delegation spent over a week in the UK in pursuit of education, networking, course walks and tours. All participants also joined BIGGA as international members so they will enjoy this magazine and other benefits throughout the year.

Sean Tully, golf course superintendent at Meadow Club in Fairfax, California, said: "This is my first time coming to BTME and I had a great time here. Harrogate is everything and more than I expected. I didn't know a lot of my colleagues over here in the UK and beyond but I have made a lot of new friends and look forward to helping some folks out and learning more from them in the future."

Tours of Royal Birkdale and Hesketh in Southport gave members insight into the history and operations at those two clubs.

A tour of the British Lawnmower Museum rounded out the day. Curator Brian Ragan had the group out to the museum's warehouse to see models not on display and did a brilliant job explaining the engineering behind the vintage mowers in his care.

After two nights in Liverpool, they headed to Harrogate on Sunday morning for the start of a week of education and visits to the exhibition. In addition to the education, highlights included the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, the STRI Golf Environment Awards dinner, and a side trip to STRI's research plots in nearby Bingley.

TurfNet's Jon Kiger said: "The TurfNet reception at the Majestic Hotel doubled in size and we were pleased to see so many of our old and new friends. Plans are already being made to bring a similar group to BTME in 2019."



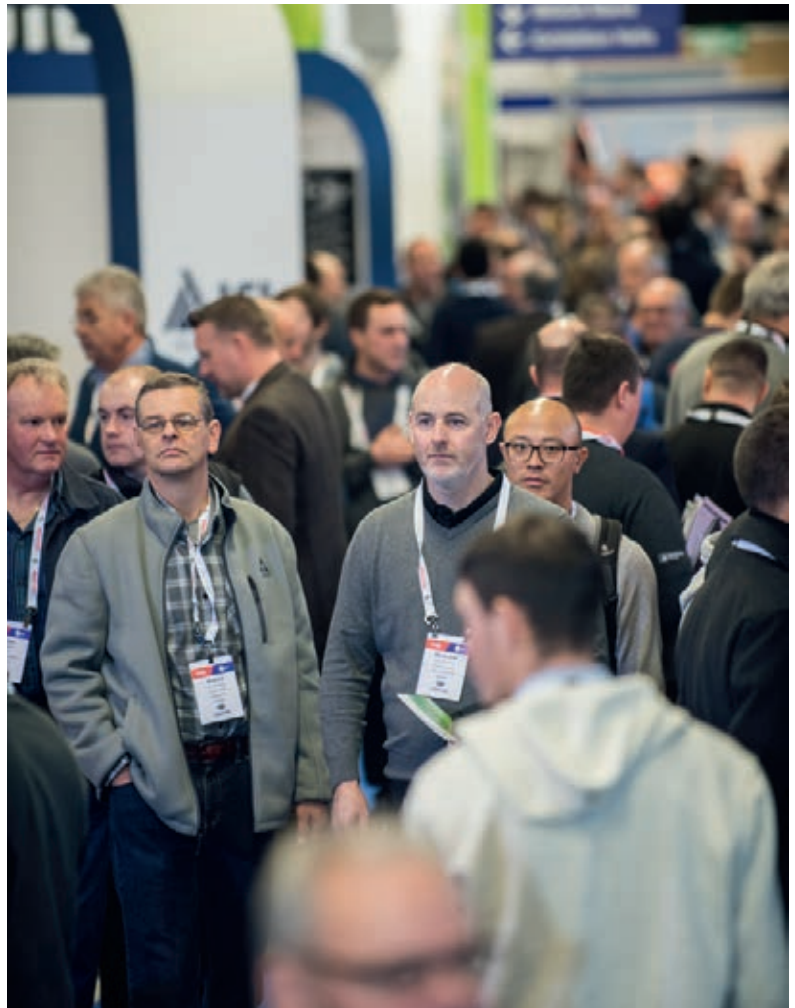
What did you think...

"It's been great, one of the best I think. It's always good to meet up with the boys who you've not seen for a year."

Keith Burgon, head greenkeeper, Eyemouth

"This is my third year at BTME, and it has been fantastic. The Young Greenkeepers' Conference was really good. We've spoken to plenty of people, swapped a few numbers and Twitter accounts, and it's been really beneficial."

Aaron Smith, greenkeeper, Long Ashton



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BTME Breakfast Club

Four of the turf management industry's leading names came together at BTME 2018 to share stories from their stellar careers and discuss some of the issues they've faced.

Kenny Mackay, Darren Baldwin, Stuart Kerrison and Keith Kent spoke about their roles at Wentworth, Tottenham Hotspur, Essex Cricket Club and the Rugby Football Union, respectively.

Kenny and his team at Wentworth won the BIGGA Championship Performance of the Year Award for turning the course around between the 2016 and 2017 BMW PGA Championships. As the host of the European Tour's flagship event he oversees England's most high-profile golf course, and while the course may be in pristine condition now, it took a lot of work to get to that point.

Kenny oversaw the rebuilding of nine greens in six weeks and, with a £5m budget, was also tasked with a number of other areas of improvement for the course, including the implementing of a new irrigation system and improving drainage on fairways.

"We knew in 2015 the greens weren't good enough and that if we didn't improve them we'd lose the tournament," said Kenny. "We went through the STRI to find out which were the best performing grass species. We use the STRI to benchmark and since then the feedback's been fantastic.

"Ernie Els, who redesigned the course, would ask if we could remove a bunker on a certain hole – maybe he'd been in it one or two times!"

While Kenny received the BIGGA award at the Welcome Celebration, he acknowledged that he couldn't have done it without his fellow groundsmen and greenkeepers.

"The team is everything in this," he said. "As it is in all the sports industry. You talk to the guys right through the team who really make a difference. It doesn't matter who you are, you aren't going to deliver that without the right people alongside you."

Darren Baldwin is head groundsman at Tottenham Hotspur, where he is working on one of the most fascinating projects in the industry. Darren was a Premier League groundsman at just 24 and despite growing up as an Arsenal fan and working at Highbury for six years, he made the switch across North London. Tottenham's innovative new stadium will feature an NFL pitch underneath its primary football pitch, which will slide away into a garage before being rolled out for Tottenham fixtures.

"They're two different playing surfaces," said Darren. "We have a deal with the NFL to host two games per season for the next 10 years. But the damage these guys do to a playing surface is unbelievable, so the chairman had a vision to slide the pitch out, under one of the new stands and underneath will be the NFL pitch.

"His drive to achieve the best, both on and off the pitch, is second to none. We're competing with clubs within an hour of us in all areas of football. We're competing with Chelsea, Arsenal and West Ham to attract the best young players we can from under-8s to under-15s."

The fully retractable grass field that can be removed to reveal an artificial surface underneath will be a new idea to many, but Darren explained that extensive testing had been done. He said: "There's been a lot of research carried out on this. We're in total darkness from October to March so we'll be using artificial lights. Then, the grass will be parked in a garage overnight with LED lights on it."

"The aim was to have a venue we can use 365 days a year, including during the summer, when we host all manner of events there such as concerts."

While much of BTME is exhibitors showcasing how best to grow grass, for Stuart Kerrison the opposite is true. As head groundsman at Essex Cricket, he told of how his job revolves more around 'killing' turf than growing it.

"People say we're trying to kill the grass and there's a lot of truth in it," he said. "We spend half the season trying to destroy the grass. We're starving it of moisture, we're putting three-tonne rollers on it 20 or 30 times. And then you've got 16-stone blokes with spikes on their boots trampling all over it.

"We're having to work within massive budget restraints but the demands are much the same. Cricket's king in India. We can have a cricket game with

Naga Munchetty speaking with Stuart Kerrison, Darren Baldwin and Kenny Mackay

Naga Munchetty speaking with Keith Kent, Stuart Kerrison, Darren Baldwin and Kenny Mackay at the BTME Breakfast Club



There's a bit of a diamond shape in football but it's chaos in rugby. You can have a scrum or maul anywhere on the pitch and there's 15-a-side rather than 11.

"We're trying to catch up with football, and at Twickenham we want to have the best pitch in the world. With rugby there's so much compaction so aeration is key.

"We saw what football was doing with lighting, for example. But it's not cheap to implement and as groundsmen we have to warrant what we spend.

"These days you go to a rugby club on a Saturday morning and there are 200 kids there and it's great. We can't be old-fashioned groundsmen saying 'You can't play on our pitch' so we have to find ways to improve."

The BTME Breakfast Club was a free education event, hosted in the Royal Hall on Wednesday morning.



5,000 people in the ground and 25,000 watching on TV and half a billion watching in India, so there's still the same pressure.

"We're trying to work within certain regulations that the ECB set out, while also trying to provide the team with some sort of home advantage."

The Melbourne Cricket Ground, which hosted the third Ashes Test in the 2017-18 series, came in for heavy criticism, being formally rated as 'poor' by the International Cricket Council. This could have led to the ground being stripped of international fixtures and Stuart explained that they're under similar scrutiny at Essex.

"99% of the balls bowled on our pitch have to be spot on," he said. "As with every sport there are opinions left, right and

centre. You'll have the older ones claiming it's never as good as in their day, so we have to hit the mark every time.

"If we're a little off the boil it can cost your team points which could cost you a championship, cost people their jobs and so on. What we've found with hybrid pitches is there's a lot more longevity. It's early days but the signs so far are very encouraging."

Keith Kent has worked at Manchester United and Leicester City and is now overseeing things with the Rugby Football Union at Twickenham. Despite spending more than 30 years in football,

Keith said he found the transition to rugby to be quite straightforward.

He said: "It was quite easy, although the wear patches are different.



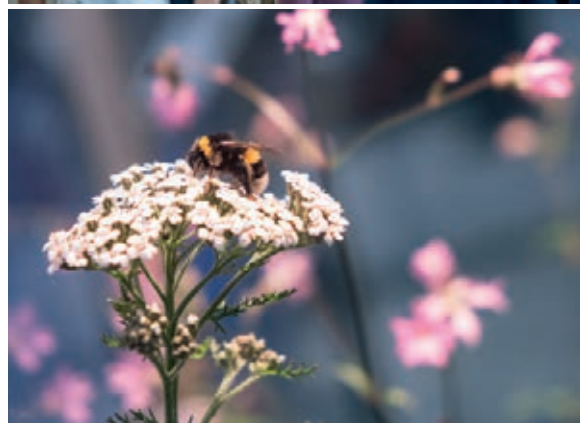
What did you think...

“We’ve had a great few days at BTME 2018. It’s great to see so many people from the UK visit us, but also our international customers. We’ve had people from Austria, Sweden, Denmark, Luxembourg, so it’s really good to see them and we’re looking forward to next year already.”

Adam Butler, Baroness UK

“This is our first time back at BTME in six years, and really we’re here because we’ve got a lot of new technology to show the industry. The nice thing about the golf industry is they have been really keen to embrace new things like robotic technology, like connectivity. It’s a real opportunity for us to engage with people who are keen to look forward at how developments are going for the future and how that might fit into our daily lives.”

Kevin Ashmore, Husqvarna UK



Germinal pool table

Visitors to the Germinal stand at BTME had the opportunity to make pots rather than putts as the seed mixture salesmen unveiled a fetching turfgrass pool table.

Germinal is celebrating after the company’s Cabrio Ultra Fine ryegrass retained its place as the number one variety in the BSPB’s Series L Table 1 for perennial ryegrasses in 2018.

In the 2018 listings, Cabrio again scored a fineness of leaf scoring of 8.8, half a point clear of its nearest rivals.

Amenity Sales Manager Richard Brown said: “Cabrio gives groundsmen, greenkeepers and turf growers an excellent opportunity to produce a harder-wearing sward that can not only tolerate a close mowing regime, but which will also give good ball roll or bounce and will be very attractive aesthetically.”

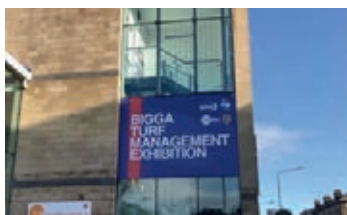


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Great day at the
BTME Harrogate
@BIGGA_BTME
#BTME2018

Join in with @BIGGALtd and @BIGGA_BTME

What did you think...

"It's been good, very busy. The education's been good, there's a lot of people here and lot of things to see. It's been great to have the opportunity to catch up with some people. The atmosphere's been great all week."

Gordon McKie, course manager, St Andrews Links Trust



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Understanding biostimulants

B iostimulants are designed to target specific areas of plant growth, stress tolerance and the activation of the plant's natural defences.

Perhaps the start point when looking at biostimulants is the definition, the following is an extract from the European Biostimulant Industry Council:

'Biostimulants include diverse formulations of compounds, substances and other products that are applied to plants or soils to regulate and enhance the crop's physiological processes, thus making them more efficient. Biostimulants act on plant physiology through different pathways than nutrient inputs to improve crop vigour, yield, quality and post-harvest shelf life/conservation.'

What distinguishes Biostimulants from traditional inputs?

- Biostimulants operate through different mechanisms than fertilisers, regardless of the presence of nutrients in the product formulations.

- Biostimulants differ from crop protection products because they act only on the plant's vigour and do not have any direct activity against pests or disease.
- Crop biostimulation is thus complementary to crop nutrition and crop protection.

Of course, many biostimulants are used together or formulated with nutrients to either obtain synergy between the component parts, or to just make applications more efficient and easy. As such it may sometimes be difficult to determine which part of a product is actually providing the greatest plant health benefit, as the final bullet point above states 'Crop biostimulation is complementary to crop nutrition and protection'.

Biostimulants on turf

Biostimulants are effective, organic-based products that, in small quantities, can improve the health of turf grass, stimulate root

and shoot growth, increase the plant's ability to tolerate stress, and augment the capabilities of standard nutrients. Biostimulants are not specifically developed to influence the plant as a standalone application, however they do provide a synergistic benefit when tank mixed with liquid products being applied in a nutritional programme.

Perhaps an easier way to look at this is, a biostimulant isn't a nutrient source and it's not a pesticide, but it is anything that can enhance plant health, from either an inert or biological source.

One of the oldest and most common biostimulant category applications to sportsturf is seaweed. Seaweed contains plant sugars, proteins and alginates, together with plant hormones such as auxins, cytokinins, gibberelins and betaines. Humic substances are another common component of biostimulant products. Both seaweed and humic acid are very effective in stimulating plant growth, increase stress tolerance and enhance microbial activity in the soil; in itself a valuable mechanism in maintaining and promoting plant vigour. When the plant is exposed to unfavourable environmental conditions and

Below left: Packshots Activate R — With ERD (Enhanced Root Developer) contains humic acid and other growth-promoting hormones, combined with micronutrients. Maxicrop 7, an organic seaweed concentrate, is one of first seaweed based biostimulant products for the turf industry"

Below: Seaweed, *ascophyllum nodosum*



undergoing cultural stresses, levels of some hormones, such as cytokinins may drop.

Applications of biostimulants containing cytokinins or other hormones will help the plant to better cope under such conditions.

The role of amino acids

Amino Acids are another source of biostimulants that assist the plants ability to cope under particularly stressful situations. Under normal conditions a plant will produce sufficient amino acids for its every day needs and are the blocks that build up proteins and are essential in ensuring the structural integrity of the plant.

However when a plant is under stress, its ability to produce these essential amino acids and proteins is inhibited with the subsequent effect of poor growth and lack of plant-repair abilities.

The application of amino-acids prior to stress periods allows the plant to maintain its vigour without expending energy by having to produce fresh amino acids when it is least able.

Factors that involve plant stress include:

- Regulating stomata opening and osmotic pressure
- A forerunner of Lignin helping structural integrity of new growth
- Increasing tolerance to saline stress
- Synthesise hormones, i.e auxins
- Reduces stress by toxic metals
- Chelates and enhances nutrient uptake

Of course, this last benefit gets back to the close utilisation of biostimulants with nutrients. A study showed a formulated amino acid product enhanced uptake of iron and chlorophyll within the plant. A liquid iron product with 8% Fe applied at 10l per hectare was compared with an amino acid formulation with only 3% Fe applied at 5lts per hectare. Over a two-month period and three applications the

enhancement of photosynthetic pigments, chlorophyll was over 9% better and carotene levels were 25% better.

More recently, biological inputs have been developed, including mycorrhiza and bacillus. The root zone is host to a myriad of microflora, which have a symbiotic relationship with all plants.

Different approaches have been made to get the best benefit of this microscopic 'army', principally encouraging the indigenous species either with nutrient supplements, including sugars, and maintaining an environment encouraging good bacteria, through aeration.

Another approach is to have microbial containing treatments in direct contact with the seed to assist germination and establishment after sowing. Germin-8T is a seed treatment containing a potent cocktail of benefits that has shown to offer significant benefits in improved germination and establishment rates, particularly under cold, wet conditions. While some biostimulant applications may not always show obvious benefits, the challenge is worthwhile and will eventually bring the rewards greenkeepers are seeking.

At this time of the year, with 'The Masters' fast approaching, players and greens committees will place unrealistic expectations on the golf course manager, requiring the course to be maintained at the highest quality. Such high level of maintenance exposes

The functions of amino acids within the plant include:

Climatic Factors

Cold, heat, poor rootzone oxygenation, low relative humidity, Frost, Hail, Wind

PLANT STRESS

Management

Mowing, Playing, Maintaining, Applying (pesticide etc)

Biotic Factors

Insects, Fungi, Virus, Bacteria, Nematodes



Graphic A

turfgrass to excessive levels of stress. In addition, applications of fertilisers, pesticides and water used to combat these stresses can often have a negative effect. The introduction of a biostimulant 'more-green' programme may be the answer, balancing environmental considerations whilst maintaining good quality turf surfaces.

Finally, biostimulants are not cure-all products, however by introducing them into the growing environment they can have a significant effect on the plant's ability to survive and thrive during conditions that are unfavourable to growth.

Stress Relief

The conditions on a UK golf course are rarely ideal for turfgrass health and its development. Greenkeepers/course managers constantly struggle to balance the contradictory needs to provide faster green speeds and a healthy turf surface.

Over many years, golf course greenkeepers have had available a range of biostimulant products that contain amino acids products to assist the turf withstand stress.

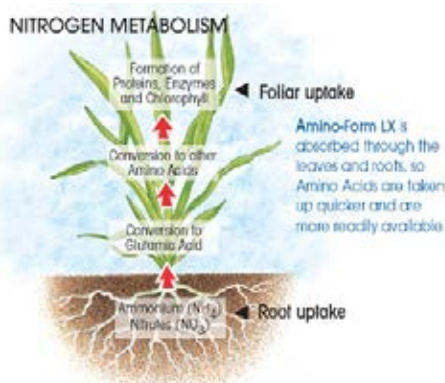
Amino acids are important organic molecules that are part of all plant physiological processes. Plants store nutrients, especially Nitrogen, as Amino Acids or proteins. Though plants under optimal growing conditions will synthesize their own amino acids, they do it at a significant expense to the plant in the energy it expends, which may result in the plant experiencing stress. Where this occurs it is important to ensure the plant has enough amino

acid to meet and counter this threat.

It is known from research that there are 20 amino acids considered essential for healthy turf grass development and its ability to function. Such research has indicated that applications of L-Amino Acids can help the turf manager better manage turf stress situations.

Amino Acids also have important chelating properties; chelates being formed by combining with important

elements such as iron, magnesium, calcium and manganese. By applying such nutrient together with an amino-based supplement such as Rigby Taylor's liquid Amino-Form LX, they will be more 'recognizable' to the plant and readily absorbed by both roots and leaves.



Leading biostimulants by Sherriff Amenity

Sherriff Amenity's leading range of biostimulants are renowned for generating a positive effect on plant health in support of normal maintenance and fertiliser programmes.

The industry leading supplier of professional products and specialist advice offers a wide range of biostimulants from Irish based manufacturers Oilean Glas Teo, including the following:

Amino Turf Liquid – an efficient anti-stress bio-stimulant, containing the maximum concentration of free amino acids and enhanced with nitrogen for faster and more efficient recovery of grass after abiotic stress.

Rapid Root – a soluble soil conditioner and root enhancer product, which contains natural humic substances and amino acids to reduce environmental stresses and to relieve the effects of wear under playing

conditions. Rapid Root acts directly to stimulate soil microbial activity around roots and promotes improvement in water and nutrient uptake. Added NPK and micronutrients ensure the grass is supported for growth and recovery.

SeaVolution – a range of liquids and granules manufactured from unique, cold process seaweed extract from fresh, hand-picked *Ascophyllum nodosum*. The seaweed is a sustainable resource and is collected from the sheltered bays and unpolluted waters

of the Atlantic Ocean. Due to the cold extraction process, SeaVolution is high in rich amino acid, micronutrients, plant hormones and alginates. Benefits of the Sevolution range include, reducing plant stress and strengthening the plant, helping to develop strong and healthy roots, hardening turf against disease, organic and sustainable.

For further information, please contact Sherriff Amenity on 01638 721 888 or visit www.sherriffamenity.com

For more news and insightful views, you can follow Sherriff Amenity on Twitter @SherriffAmenity



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Turf rolling

Ian Mitchell, High Five Training

The benefits of turf rolling have been a regular feature in turf publications for several years now, and the range of turf roller accessories and dedicated machines has never been bigger.

From greens mower accessories, to dedicated ride-on machines, there's something to suit almost every situation and budget.

It's certainly something which has made a major impact on the maintenance and preparation of golf greens. Initially used purely to increase greens speed, the roller has now been used to improve the trueness of putting greens, and with this smoother surface, it gives the ability to raise the mowing height, while still maintaining a suitable greens speed. So, positive news all round then.

Do you roll?

You can't mow a green without adding some rolling action, and the cutting unit itself is a roller.

As we increase the specification of the units by adding turf groomers and roller brushes, we are increasing the weight of the units, and therefore the rolling effect they will have on the surface.

So, really everyone rolls their greens, it's just a matter of how much you roll, and with what?

...everyone rolls their greens, it's just a matter of how much you roll, and with what?

Accessory units

There are roller units for all the main manufacturers' greens mowers, and a wide range of after market units as well, some offer light spiking and adjustable vibration units to increase the rolling effect. Fitting rollers to an existing greens mower is the most cost-effective way to get rolling, and it's the easiest for the staff, as the operation is exactly the same as mowing the greens.

Double roller drive 7475



Dedicated rolling machines

There is a wide range of dedicated rolling machines, some with built-in transport wheel, others with dedicated trailers to transport them around the course. Where the dedicated units differ is the operation. The operator sits sideways, and drives back and forth across the green. It's quicker than turning at the end of each pass, but the sideways motion does take some getting used to. There are now battery powered rollers, so there is little, or no noise created by their use. They are also very cost-effective to run, making them a real consideration for anyone looking to manage running costs and petrol consumption.

The rolling effect.

There can be an understandable concern over the compaction caused by rolling on a fine turf surface. After all, enough time and effort goes into aerating the surface and relieving compaction that this must feature in any discussion about rolling.

There are enough studies by eminent turf professors about the positives of turf rolling on both sand-based and natural soil greens to overcome all but the most sceptical of greenkeepers. While the rolling effect is not quite as simple as comparing the actual ground pressure of different units, it is the most obvious starting point.

To resolve this, there is now a move to lighter turf rollers, with an all-up weight of just 275kg (the Smithco ultra light) resulting in a ground pressure of just 3psi. While this is very light (most range from 3.5 to 4psi), the smoothing effect is still there, creating a truer surface.

So that's rolling on golf greens, but what about the rest of the playing surface? If there are benefits to be had on the greens, surely this can be transferred to other parts of the course?

Fairway rolling: It's been around for a few years now, but rolling on fairways is starting to gain some interest. Trials in the US are suggesting that regular rolling is not only producing a smoother, more predictable playing surface, but it is also reducing disease, and reducing costs.

There some self-propelled units available in the US. The Salsco is an obvious example. Perhaps of more interest here, would be either towed rollers or roller accessory units for existing fairway mowers?

Smithco have two towed units. The Fairway Ultra 10 gives a 10ft rolling width, using three rollers, while the wider model, the Ultra 15, uses five rollers to get a 15ft width. The width, combined with a towing speed up to 10mph, means covering ground is not an issue and it's faster than mowing.

The roller frame has a water tank on it so rolling weight can be increased when required.

Smithco quotes a ground pressure of 5.6psi when dry and 9psi with a full ballast tank.

The nice feature is that the rollers fold around the tank to reduce the transport width when not in use. It certainly makes storage much easier as well.

Tru-turf offer a set of accessory units for your fairway mower, allowing their offset rollers principles to be applied to your fairways, as well as your greens. The 91kg heads can be used at up to transport speeds, so productivity, again, is good. With the same working width as a standard fairway unit, these units will fit into existing stripe/presentation patterns, and should follow the contours as well as a fairway mower. There shouldn't be any additional staff training either, as they are fitted to an existing fairway mower.

The claims of better looking, smoother playing fairways are easy enough to believe. There are trials going on in the US to test the agronomic benefits to disease and weed reduction, and the claims that regular rolling can reduce mowing frequency, without effecting the quality, just like it does on your greens. If that means less hours on your fairway mowers each season, less regrinds and bottom blades, and perhaps even extended replacement plans, then it's an argument worth listening to.

Smithco fairway roller



Kubota

Spring into action with Kubota UK's Cashback Domestic Ride-on-Mower offer

Following high demand, Kubota UK's popular ride-on mower cashback programme has returned for another year, providing lawn lovers with the perfect opportunity to produce a pristine lawn this spring.

The leading groundcare manufacturer is offering cashback opportunities across a number of its powerful, versatile and economic ride-on-mower solutions, including its first ever zero turn domestic ride-on mower, the Z122R.

Offering operators the opportunity to achieve the perfect cut across their lawn with its innovative technology and wide ranging features, the incentive is available to our domestic customers purchasing the Z122R, T Series and GR Series ride-on mowers from a Kubota dealer across the UK & Ireland.

Available from the 1st February until the 30th June 2018, our domestic customers can claim a significant £300/€400 cashback on both GR2120(S) models, whilst £200/€270 cashback is available on both GR1600(ID) models, T1880 and Z122R ride-on mowers.

For more information on Kubota and its extensive range of solutions for the groundcare and agriculture sectors visit www.kubota.co.uk or call 01844 268000.



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True-Surface Vibe V Rollers are industry leading and help in many areas such as: consistent greens ball speed, removing morning dew, helping reduce dollar spot, and evenly distributing topdressing into the turf canopy. True-Surface Rollers can also be paired with the **True-Surface Flex Brush** or the newly designed **True-Surface Ninja Star** making it a multi-purpose tool for all golf courses. Come see us in San Antonio at the GCSAA Golf Industry Show at Booth# 15105 and upgrade to the original patented True-Surface Vibratory Roller!



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Reesink

Toro brings the smoothest roll for the smoothest greens

Bringing the smoothest greens to the UK, Toro's GreensPro 1260 takes all the excellent features of the previous Toro GreensPro models, and then some. It adds overlapping heads for a consistent roll over every pass, and a quick latch coupler and pivot handle to easily transition from roll to transport.

But perhaps most importantly, one of the key new features is split stainless steel smoothing rollers. The benefit of this is two-fold: uniform smooth greens are achieved in just one sitting and the risk of scuffing during turns is dramatically reduced.

Toro has also replaced the hydro and chain drive with a hydraulic drive system. This eliminates leaks and potential contamination of the grass and reduces the amount of maintenance required with chain drive systems.

Put it all together and the result is smoother greens with a more uniform appearance and the best playability. For the operator it's a more comfortable ride thanks to the

isolated engine, which means minimal vibrations, and the ability to perfectly place the seat and steering column according to individual requirements. When it comes to maintenance, well that job just got a whole lot better — there's less to clean and access is much easier, as is transporting the machine from green to green. And for the club management, smoother greens brings an improvement in course perceptions and an increase in productivity. In a nutshell, the 1260 represents the evolution of green irons.

Toro's latest greens roller, the GreensPro 1260, features overlapping heads for a consistent roll over every pass



Turf Rolling

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'IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF SCI-FI'

Yellow Jacket Water Manager



Fairways at Royal St George's Golf Club

Barenbrug Yellow Jacket Water Manager delivers improved germination and seedling survival in the toughest environments.

Getting one of the world's greatest golf courses in pristine shape for one of the world's greatest golfing tournaments requires a combination of hard graft and nerves of steel.

It's all down to Head Greenkeeper Paul Larsen, who has been tasked with making the bone-dry course at Royal St George's TV-ready for the 2020 Open Championship.

As one of the first-ever golf courses to use high-tech grass seed Yellow Jacket Water Manager from Barenbrug, which locks moisture inside a groundbreaking coating, Paul has seen a dramatic increase in establishment rates at the historic Kent links course.

"Considering we have one of the driest golf courses in the UK, we've been able to keep moisture levels consistent, while probably using the least amount of water of any course thanks to this new seed," said Paul, who has been at the club since 2011.

"In the past, we would have to increase irrigation levels following overseeding to prevent seedlings from drying out. We don't have to do this anymore. And I can see the new seed making a massive difference to the way we manage our irrigation."

Open and shut

With such a large programme of improvements to make in the run up to the 149th Open — including the building of 80 bunkers and an entirely new irrigation system — the last thing a greenkeeper needs is a poorly-performing grass seed.

Paul said the new Yellow Jacket Water Manager seed, which contains a patented wetting agent that improves germination and seedling survival rates in areas of low-water availability, is "like something out of sci-fi".

Paul and his team sowed the seed as a trial run at the prestigious course at the beginning of September and have seen incredible results.

Paul, who has been a greenkeeper for 17 years, said: "I'm trying to retain a 20 per cent moisture level across the board and in the past I've had to increase this to encourage good establishment, but with this seed I haven't had to. The seed came through in one week, and by week two it was up and running. I wanted minimal irrigation on the greens, and now I've got it."

Working together with our partners





From the rough to the smooth

Having hosted Opens, PGA, Amateur Championships, and Walker and Curtis Cups, the 138-year-old course at Royal St George's has been witness to more golfing history than any other in England, but like all links courses its humps and swales and fast-running fairways and deep bunkers can suffer from the intrusion of weed seeds— and this can be a perpetual headache for the greenkeeper.

"Free draining, dry soils are perfect for our desired fescue grasses. We need to keep our irrigation levels low in order to favour the fescues and discourage unwanted grasses such as Poa and ryegrass," said Paul. "Over the last few years we have used selective graminicide

to kill off the unwanted coarse grasses. This has left us with areas of reduced grass cover which have required regular overseeding to restore full grass cover as soon as possible".

But since using Yellow Jacket Water Manager, Paul and his team have seen hugely improved results. He added: "The seed has germinated and established so well, even in difficult areas. The difference in performance with Yellow Jacket Water Manager is clear to see. I can't afford to waste money putting in grass seed that might not grow; and I know with this seed that this won't happen."

Seed saviour

Hosting the Open for the 15th time in the club's history, the pressure is most definitely on Paul to get the course right. But for him, Yellow Jacket has proved to be a valuable tool in his armory.

"I would happily champion this product to anyone", he said. "There's still a lot of work to be done to prepare for 2020, but I can't wait to get my hands on more of this seed next year to help us get to the right place in time for the Open".



New grass at Royal St George's Golf Club

'I can't afford to waste money putting in grass seed that might not grow; and I know with this seed that this won't happen.'



About Yellow Jacket Water Manager

Yellow Jacket Water Manager is a game-changing seed enhancement product that improves germination and seedling survival in tough environments. The patented technology is the result of a research project by Barenbrug and Aquatrols and has been independently tested by the STRI.

Around the Green Northern



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North East



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I hope everyone has enjoyed their festive period and hopefully not too many of you are now alcoholics. All the best to everyone in the new year.

The annual 'bring a bottle' tournament was played on 14 December and what a great day it was. Conditions were tough (as the scores suggest). Stuart and his team did a great job getting the course in such high standards considering the time of year.

Now down to the day's scoring. Congratulations to Alex Robson, playing his home course with an impressive score of 33 points. Second place was Jack Friar and third James Thorpe. The trade prize was won by Marc Kerr, pushing Glen Baxter into second place. Unlucky Glen, 12 points wasn't quite good enough this time around!

I'm sure most of the greenkeepers of the north east will have visited BTME down at Harrogate. Thank you for everyone who attended, as there was lots going on, with lots of workshops and seminars sold out. Great to see you all down there.

Congratulations to David Thompson who has been promoted to head greenkeeper at Hexham.

Cleveland



Anthony McGeough

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As they say in Game of Thrones, "Winter's coming". Well you're not wrong! I've seen enough snow, now you can do one, I've got far too many jobs up in the air to finish and plenty yet to



Cleveland: Snow

start! First on the list was to remove a large copse of self-seeded ash trees and as it was so cold we decided to burn them, which coincidentally may have added to the wonderful Middlesbrough smog hovering around Redcar, shielding it from the snow all around and allowing us to play our Christmas bring-a-bottle golf day.

The results on the day were just a formality and there were no winners (obviously I didn't win) as it was just for fun. Thank you again to Ian Pemberton for producing an excellent course on the day. The greens were an absolute delight to play on and are a real credit to you and your staff.

Thank you to all our sponsors on the day.

Future events

Evening lecture at Teesside Golf Club, Wednesday 7 March, entitled Life without Fungicides. Food will be provided on the evening. Please try and make every effort to attend.

We will be trying footgolf again this year. A date hasn't been confirmed but we are looking at the end of April beginning of May. More details will follow.

The date and venue of the spring tournament has to be confirmed, but we are looking to move it a bit later in the year to try and get a greater attendance. More details will follow.

North West



Steve Hemsley

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Mike Bottomley retired from Rossendale at the end of 2017 after 47 years in the greenkeeping industry. Having worked at Ross, Clitheroe and Rochdale, Mike took a position with David Thomas, building and renovating courses. These projects took Mike all over, including Penina in Portugal, El Prat in Barcelona, the third course in La Manga, San Roque near Valderrama. Mick was even seconded at one time to Abbotts Irrigation to install a system at Eurodisney. On returning to the UK, Mick continued with construction and renovation at Bowood House, Winchester, Newbury and Warwickshire before going to Hallsworth Golf Club in Redditch as Head Greenkeeper, then on to Stockport and finally to Rossendale where Mick worked for over 11 years.

With his new grandson, Stellan and Lola his five year old granddaughter Mike intends spending some quality family time in the role of chief taxi driver and baby sitter. We wish Mike all the very best in his retirement.

Yorkshire



Rob Gee

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No doubt everyone is encountering the typical January weather conditions! Oh and just to make it interesting, 'Storm Eleanor' gets thrown in!

Everyone no doubt attended Harrogate and pre-ordered all their new equipment, etc. We should all now be well-equipped with our new beanies and baseball caps!

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on near
you**
See our
events page
for details
of what's
happening in
your region

North Wales



Can you become the face of BIGGA North Wales? Email sandra@bigga.co.uk or @BIGGANorthWales

Well this month it's a Harlech-based report. Firstly, we would like to welcome Ilan Hughes to BIGGA. Ilan is an apprentice with Coleg Cambria and is enjoying his time at Royal St David's in Harlech. Then we move on to Emyr Price, who has worked at Royal St David's for 44 years and on 29 January celebrated his 60th birthday. Emyr's fantastic family (his wife Julie, four sons David, John, Ian and Owen, John's wife Sarah and their three grandchildren Lily aged 7, Sion aged 2 and Ellie just 9 months old), along with all of us in the section, wish you many happy returns Emyr.

While February is the least favourite month for many, it is always worth taking a few minutes in the day to enjoy a 'moment', when something just looks great for an instance. Take the time to really take in those amazing scenes we all see and hold onto those moments. Spring is nearly here, bring on the colour.



North Wales: Ilan Hughes

Section News

We want to hear what's been going on in your section

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



Sheffield: Joyrider's car



Sheffield: Damage from a joyrider's car

Well here it is, the long-awaited fixture list. At first glance you may think this is the European Tour's events list, but no this has been specially arranged just for you, so let's have extra special effort to attend!

Bingley Golf Club, 4 April, cost £25;
Fixby Golf Club, 13 June, tee off 1.30pm, cost TBC;
Hessle Golf Club, 12 September, tee off 12.56pm, cost £20;
West Bradford Golf Club, Christmas golf date TBC;
Please book early to avoid disappointment!

Best wishes to Marcus Cordingly from Bradley Park on his recovery from a malicious attack from a dog walker back in November, which left him with a severely broken leg that will take many more month to recover from. Sadly, the attacker has not been identified. He was walking a chocolate Labrador and was approximately 50 years old.

Thanks to all our sponsors and good luck everyone for 2018.

Sheffield



Adrian Keys
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Happy new year to all the Sheffield Section. If you're anything like us up at Wortley, the new year has brought us plenty more snow and rain, just to keep us on our toes.

Hopefully many of you will have attended BTME and will have taken advantage of what the show has to offer. News has been pretty sparse to come by this month, with many of us mainly dealing with the aforementioned weather.

Rob and Ant at Worksop recently had a reminder of some of the unpredictable damage that can occur on the course when joyriders decided to drive over the 9th green and fairway.

Unfortunately, this is becoming more and more common in our area. Hopefully by the next issue the weather will have picked up and we can start looking forward to a new season



North Wales: Emyr Price with two of his grandchildren

Around the Green

Central England



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Around the Green



BB&O: Whiteleaf Golf Club bunkers after the storm

BB&O



Craig Earnshaw

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Well, we're back from another fantastic BTME. It's now time to finish the projects that the weather has been hampering throughout the winter. I met up with Mike Ginger from Whiteleaf Golf Club, in Buckinghamshire to see how they were getting on with their projects.

Back in the summer of 2017, Whiteleaf was hit by an enormous storm that tracked right across the golf course. They recorded around 29mm of rainfall in a half-hour period, which flooded the clubhouse and devastated areas of the course, including all of their bunkers. Mike Ginger, head greenkeeper, explained what happened and what they will be doing to fix the problem. The rain fell on hard, baked ground and this combined with the hilly downland terrain and high

sand-faced bunkers, leaving them with a huge clear up operation.

Washed out bunkers with large silt deposits had to be completely dug out and replaced with fresh sand — a huge undertaking in mid-season for a two-man team. Despite a large amount of voluntary help from their very willing membership, eight of their largest bunkers were in dire need of some serious renovation and so they were left with a choice of either replacing the sand in what they already had or exploring a more cost-effective solution to our problem.

Mike explained: "Freak weather patterns seem to be becoming more prevalent within our weather patterns and we felt that we needed to be more proactive in the choice of design in order to future proof our bunkers against the likelihood of another similar event. I'm sure we are not alone in the reality of working under tight budget constraints and we felt we could not waste good money by simply replenishing the sand in bunkers that clearly had design faults and would therefore still be vulnerable to further damage."



BB&O: Whiteleaf Golf Club bunkers after the renovation

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With all this in mind they have decided to turn to the team at Eco Bunker in order to reduce the sand faces on their rather steep slopes and hopefully secure high-quality bunker surfaces for the foreseeable future, thereby reducing ongoing maintenance costs and labour. The project is now well underway, despite being hampered by the snow fall before Christmas, and they are so far delighted with the results. They hope to have all of the re-designed bunkers back in operation by mid-March.

We have a number of events coming up from golf days to small educational workshops keep an eye out on the Facebook BB&O page. We will be emailing out the next event in the coming days.

'...we felt we could not waste good money by simply replenishing the sand in bunkers that clearly had design faults...'

Mid Anglia



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Midland



Glen Howard
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The Midland calendars should be landing with you as we go to print. They are a little late this year due to the golf day being cancelled and the bad weather. If you haven't received yours, let me know and we will get them posted to you.

The fixture card will be ready for March, kindly sponsored by Headland Amenity.

This year's golf days have been organised with the following dates and venues:

Nuneaton GC, 31 May, 12.30pm
Harbourne GC, AGM, 10 October, 12.30pm

Copt Heath GC, 13 December 10.30am. More details and information will be on the Facebook page and website when I have it.

We would like to welcome James (Jim) Moverley from Shirley GC onto the committee as golf secretary. Please support and help Jim by getting your entries in early while he finds his feet in his new role.

The Christmas tournament, which was cancelled, will be re arranged in due course. We are looking for a date around March or April. Again, keep an eye out on Facebook and the website.

The website has changed address please look for the following link: www.biggamidlands.co.uk

The ICL doubles has been drawn. Please check the website for details on your matches.

Training, seminar dates for your diary

8 March, trip to New Holland factory, organised by Campey Turf Care. You will be taken on a tour of the factory and look at any new models they have. To book in, please contact your local Campey rep, Jason Lord or Simon Dunn. Minibus will be provided for a small cost.

11 April ALS/Maxwell Amenity will be hosting a seminar. Venue and content to be finalised soon.

We would also like to thank all the sponsors who have kindly donated to the section calendar, thanks for all your support.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and haven't got a hangover from Harrogate!

Hopefully we have now seen the last of the snowy weather and mother nature gives us a warm sunny spring! (That's jinxed it)

East of England



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East Midlands



Paul Fowkes
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I hope everyone is well and winter's not been too harsh. Hopefully I've seen a few of you at BTME and I am sure it was educational for everyone. We have all our venues and dates arranged for this coming season and they are as follows: Notts (Hollinwell), 2 May; Par-3 at Beedles Lake; Mickleover, 3 October; Charnwood, 12 December.

If any member wants anything putting in the magazine, please do not hesitate to contact me on Facebook, Twitter or email. This can be anything from new kit to long service to new members of staff.

New Members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Alan Boyd	FA - Bothwell Castle
Robert Walker	GK - Portstewart
Stephen Clark	GK - Turnberry
Billy Cairns	AGK - Brora

Northern

Joshua Thomason	DCM - Royal Wimbledon
Bradley Ashton	GK - Prestbury
Cameron Thorpe	AGK - Dunstanburgh Castle
Chris Hulme	AGK - Blackpool North Shore
Luke Johnstone	AGK - Turton

Central England

Mark Carter	Affiliate - T H White
Josh Marshall	Apprentice - The Worcestershire
Lawrence Ryan	CM - Overstone Park Resorts
John Say	GK - Sunningdale
Sam Hunt	AGK - Huntercombe
Eamon Geraghty	AGK - Huntercombe
Kyle Targett	AGK - Sunningdale
Mark Hopkins	AGK - Worksop

South East

Ben Murray	Apprentice - Ely City
Caelen Neil	Apprentice - The London
Aaron Jassaula	GK - Sunningdale
Max Macleod	GK - Fulwell
Daniel Pullen	AGK - Hendon
Matthew Everett	AGK - Sunningdale

South West and South Wales

Hayley Beard	CM - Quob Park
Sophia Long	Student - Ferndown
Lee Spiers	AGK - St Mellion

International

Jaco Fourie	Turfworx SA
Joao Nunes	Oitavos Dunes
Thomas Pihl	Furesoe Golfklub

Around the Green

South West & S. Wales



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Regional Administrator

Tracey Walker

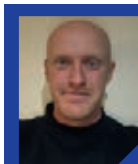
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Around the Green



Wayne Vincent and his hole in one

South West



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Happy New Year to everyone and I hope you all have a great year ahead. It's been a tough few months for us all out there with the ever-changing weather conditions. I know from speaking to lots of greenkeepers it has really hampered their projects that they had set out to accomplish this winter. The one thing that has been great to hear and see is that everyone has been very supportive across the board as we are all in the same boat. It really shows the camaraderie of our industry at this time of the year that everyone can rally around others.

The South West section held its postponed Christmas Golf Day at The Manor House Hotel and Golf Club. We were due to play this event in December but, due to the excessive snow conditions they endured, the decision was made to rearrange for January.

The course was in fantastic condition for the time of year and was a real pleasure to play, so thank you to Course Manager Rob Preston and the team for all the hard work you guys have done over the past few weeks to produce a great course. The bar and catering staff also were brilliant.

A mention also has to go out to all of our patrons who, without their support at these events, not just for golf days but also education days, we would not be able to have such great venues to visit. So thanks to you all.

So, the day itself was a typical cold, dry winter's day with everyone wrapped up well but everyone was very excited to be out on a golf course. It wasn't long before we had great news that Wayne Vincent had already carded a hole in one on the par 3 2nd hole.

The competition was a stableford pairs, and when the winning pair was announced, it shouldn't have been too much of a surprise. The home team of Rob Preston and Mark Bolton scored an incredible 50 points to win the day. Now if there is ever a case for home advantage and knowledge of your course this is a great example. Bear in mind I did see the pair head out onto the course just before the day commenced with the hole changing gear so we can only suspect they had their favoured pin position in mind. Not to take anything away from them though; great result guys and I know

**What's
on near
you**

See our
events page
for details
of what's
happening in
your region

you were very happy with your day's play so again well done.

I had the great pleasure of being shown around the course early in the morning by Rob as he discussed with me just some of the work him and his team have been carrying out. I suspect many others are unaware the course is actually a conservation site which does hinder their ability to just go out and start projects whenever they want. Lots of the trees cannot be touched because of this and Rob showed me areas where they struggle with light and air movement around some of their greens. But what they can do is clearance of the brash that is underlying the trees, and that on its own is no small project with the area they have to cover.

Another project they carried out after being given the green light by the environmental agencies was to have a connecting overflow between two of their lakes they use to pull irrigation water in the season. Problems had arisen that one lake was not sufficient enough for their needs so an overflow to carry water from an adjacent lake needed to be installed. Problems arose when they walked the area they were going to install the overflow on and they came across a 10 foot drop hole that had been created through natural erosion. So, setting out with excavated stone material that has been stored since the construction of the course some 25 years ago, the hole had to be filled and the rest of the material was used to lay the base for a concrete pad to be laid on top.

Rob is also this year planning (weather permitting) to bring his spring renovations into the back end of February, as at this time of year golfer's expectations are not as high as they are during the Augusta syndrome period and he feels he can carry out more work to the greens without having a

detrimental effect on the business side. This also means when he gets to March/April he can have full focus on course preparation for the upcoming summer.

Our next event to be held is in conjunction with the South Wales section where we will be playing Royal Porthcawl on 13 February. Further details will be sent out very soon and again we hope to see new and familiar faces there.

South Coast



Mike Cartwright
@mikehgc
mikecartwright1@hotmail.co.uk

South Wales



Andrew Hatcher
@BIGGASouthWales
andrewhatcher1@msn.com

The Christmas turkey trot played at Pyle and Kenfig could not have gone any better, despite the awful weather leading up to the day. I thought we would be trudging around, but with no wind and rain, the course played very well thanks to Paul and his staff.

Results: 1st, Jamie Saunders; 2nd, Big D; 3rd, Mark Tucker; longest drive, Big D; nearest the pin, Mark Tucker. Thanks to the patrons for their support and prizes on the day.

A joint seminar with BIGGA South West & South Wales will be held at Thornbury Golf Centre on Wednesday 14 March. This will be a great networking and learning event and an

email will be sent with the confirmed speakers. The cost is £25 per person, which will include refreshments and lunch, more details to come.

Rhys Norville has taken up a new position with Terralift. I'm sure he will contact us soon, good luck.

If you have any ideas or information for Around the Green please contact me.

Devon & Cornwall



Neil Rogers
@buckaroo14
nrogers@advancegrass.com

The section would like to send their best wishes and hopes of a speedy recovery to Neil Rogers — everyone is thinking of you and your family Neil and we are all looking forward to seeing you out and about when you have fully recovered.

The next section event is our annual workshop day at St Enodoc on Wednesday 21 February. We have lots planned for the day, so make sure you put the date in your diaries. Theory sessions will include Jane Leyland from Rigby Taylor, Joe Hendy from Germinal and David Greenshields from Barenbrug. There will be presentations from Duchy College and Perennial. Practical demonstrations from Campey Turf Care and Charterhouse. Please keep an eye on your email inbox for the invite.

Just a polite reminder to let Tracey Walker (07841 948110) know if you have changed jobs, position and contact details, as she can then update the BIGGA database. All news and events are sent out via email and if we don't have the correct one for you, you could be missing out.

The section would like to thank our patrons for their continued support.

Section News

We want to hear what's been going on in your section

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk

DON'T MISS OUT

Joint section seminar
with BIGGA South
West & South Wales
Wednesday 14 March
Thornbury Golf Centre

Thank you
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sponsors

Around the Green South East



Chairman
Peter Smith
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com.



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Administrator**

Kerry Phillips
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Walton Heath Annual Golf & Dinner Day



The BIGGA South East Region's annual golf and dinner day is taking place once again at Walton Heath, the home of the 2019 British Masters.

Taking place on Friday 9 March, the golf day is one of the association's oldest greenkeeping events and is held each year at the former Ryder Cup and five-time European Open venue.

Competitions include the Ray Day Memorial Trophy, the Ian McMillan Trophy and the Section Team Trophy, with tickets costing £45 per person and

including breakfast, lunch and an on-course barbecue.

To secure a place email Kerry Phillips on Kerry@bigga.co.uk with players' names, handicap and golf club.

Annual Golf & Dinner Day

BIGGA South East Region would like to invite you to their Annual Golf and Dinner Day.
Friday 9 March 2018, Walton Heath Golf Club.

This is one of our oldest Greenkeeping events, held at a golf club that has hosted many major championships over the years including the Ryder Cup and 5 European Opens. This year the Club has the honour of hosting the British Masters.

The competitions include the Ray Day Memorial Trophy, The Ian McMillan Trophy awarded to the best combined Greenkeeper and club official, The Section Team Trophy and various handicap prizes.

Tickets are £45 per person including coffee and bacon rolls, 18 holes, a superb meal as Lister Wilder Ltd.

To secure your place either email Kerry Phillips on kerry@bigga.co.uk with players names, handicap and golf club or complete the form below.

PLEASE NOTE this is a pre pay only event and payment WILL NOT be accepted on the day.



Name: _____ Handicap: _____

Guest name: _____ Handicap: _____

Golf club: _____

Preferred contact number: _____

Email: _____

Please reserve at Walton Heath Golf Club on Friday 9 March 2018. _____ place(s) for the South East Region Annual Dinner and Golf

Dietary requirements: _____

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to BIGGA South East region

☐ I have paid via BACS with a reference G and D and your name or golf club

Payment can be made by bank transfer using sort code 40 20 35 and account number 41072600

G and D your name or golf club or by cheque made payable to BIGGA South East Region

Kerry Phillips, Kerry Edge Cottage, Green Lane, Juddes, Walton Heath, Surrey, GU24 0AB

Kindly return this form to: _____

Surrey



Stephen Alabaster
@JacUKEast
salabaster@tip.
textron.com

Kent



Darren Burton
@BIGGAKent
dbawol05@gmail.
com

Is it just me or has January gone really quick? Resolutions have already been broken, and for those fortunate enough to attend, BTME has been and gone. And for everyone else, we are all left with trying to catch up with winter work due to bad weather or absences. Which brings me nicely to the best quote I've seen this month: "Don't worry, summer is just around the corner and the rain will be that much warmer". Spot on!

Back to business and no doubt everybody who was able to attend, enjoyed what BTME had to offer. Whether it was for education, product awareness or deciding which machinery you intend to add to your increasing wish list. BTME certainly caters for everyone's needs and I find it is a great motivational tool to get the year well underway.

I can only hope that our Facebookers will share some knowledge with the group along with any interesting ideas, products or machinery they might have seen.

Anthony Stockwell - Hadlow College will be continuing on with the Winter Seminars in February (Information on our FB page & Twitter) and we will also be confirming our golf events and perhaps something a little different also..... watch this space!

'Don't worry, summer is just around the corner and the rain will be that much warmer'. Spot on!

Kent

What's on near you

See our events page for details of what's happening in your region



East Anglia: Brian Lemmon

East Anglia



Mick Lathrope
@BIGGAEastAnglia
lil.lathrope@
ntlworld.com

As you are already aware, Brian Lemmon passed away on 12 December 2017. His funeral was on Friday, 29 December. I was among the 400 plus friends and family who attended and, as you can imagine, it was quite emotional. I thought it would be appropriate for me to write a tribute to Brian and provide an insight of the day for those friends that could not make it, if that's ok.

Brian's Funeral

On Friday, 29 December 2017 I, along with 400 plus relatives and friends gathered at St Remigius Church, Hethersett, for Brian's funeral.

The church, as you can imagine, was packed. People started arriving at 1pm for the 2pm service. I have never seen so many people at a funeral, which only shows the high esteem and respect in which Brian was held.

His very good friend and golfing partner of many years, Richard Bond, paid his own personal tribute which was absolutely brilliant and left not a dry eye in the congregation.

It was also very fitting to see Brian's right hand man, and loyal friend for many years, Geordie, as one of the pall-bearers, a more proud man you will never see.

After the service those who wished, went on to Barnham Broom Golf & Country Club for the wake. This too was amazing. Although this was a very sad occasion, the mood was lifted when old friends reminisced and all had a tale or two to tell about our dear friend, who is now part of "greenkeeping folklore".

Rest in peace mate.

Essex



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ian.wood@
romfordgolfclub.co.uk

London



Kevin O'Neill
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Sussex



Chris Humphrey
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turf-care.co.uk

Thank you to our section sponsors

Section News

We want to hear what's been going on in your section

Email your news to
Karl@bigga.co.uk

Around the Green Scotland & N. Ireland



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Regional Administrator

John Young

07776 242120

johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

East



Grant Moran

@BIGGA_ES

grant@mortonhallgc.co.uk

By the time you read this, January will have been and gone. BTME will be over for another year and we will all be looking towards the start of the season, trying to finish off those winter projects. Deciding what was good and bad last season, what areas we can improve on, and deciding what our yearly budget allows us to do. I was playing golf recently and a golfer said "Winter must be your quite time" — if only they knew!

We held our AGM and numbers were up, which is great. Congratulations to Scott Corrigan on winning the Jimmy Neilson trophy.

Central



Craig Boath

@CraigBoath

cboath@carnoustiegolflinks.co.uk

North



Martin Turna

@martin_turna

martin.turna@gmail.com

I am afraid I have to start with some sad news. Firstly, Brian Fraser, head greenkeeper at Inverness, passed away at the age of 57. Brian has been course manager for 30 years and he's been at Inverness for 40 years.

Secondly, we are all sorry to hear about the doors of Ballindalloch Castle closing following the downturn in the golf market over recent years. Ballindalloch was designed by Donald Steel and Tom Mackenzie, both



North: Brian Fraser with his grandson

internationally-recognised golf course architects.

I am sure that all of you who attended BTME Harrogate enjoyed this fantastic event and came back to your golf clubs full of new knowledge and experience.

There is some movement in the section: Gary Urquart has moved from Alness to Invergordon. We wish him all the best.

And as for myself, I am leaving Fraserburgh and moving to Aldeburgh. I would like to thank the North Section committee for all their support over the past two years.

Our committee is always welcoming new members, which brings only benefit to both parties. I would like to encourage you to join this great team and enjoy it as much as I have.

Thank you
to our section
sponsors

Section News

We want to
hear what's
been going
on in your
section

Email your news to
Karl@bigga.co.uk

SW Scotland



Steven Carmichael

@gkstevie79

stevie79@icloud.com

As you read this BTME will have passed and sadly I wasn't able to make it this year. Hopefully next year will be a different story and I am sure I will catch up with some of you at the Scottish Conference in Perth.

We welcome David Feeney to the section. David has just left his role at St Annes Old Links in north west England and has started his role as deputy head at Prestwick.

Well done to Scott Corrigan from Royal Troon, who has taken advantage of being an R&A Scholar. Scott recently travelled to volunteer at the Singapore Open held at Sentosa Golf Club. I'm sure it was a great experience.

West



Scott Davidson

@BiggaWest

headgreenkeeper@cathcartcastle.net

Northern Ireland



Andy Barr

@3andybarr

Andybarr_3@hotmail.co.uk



Phillip Snellin

@PhillipSnellin

philsnellin77@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

Contact your section secretary to book a place

■ Scotland & Northern Ireland

BIGGA Scotland Golf Industry

Conference: 27 February, Perth Concert Hall

Northern Ireland: 8 March, CAFRE – Greenmount Campus, education day

Central: 25 April, Leven Links, spring outing

North: 3 May, Nairn Dunbar, section outing

South West: 10 May, Troon Portland, spring outing

■ Northern

North West: 27 February, Garstang, BIGGA North West Conference

Cleveland: 7 March, Teesside GC, Evening lecture, 'Life after Fungicides'

Northern: 4 April, Bingley St Ives, golf day

Sheffield: 11 April, Abbeydale, Rainbird Irrigation Day

North West: 19 April, Prestbury, spring tournament

Northern: 13 June, Fixby, golf day

■ Central England

East of England: 28 February, Woodhall Spa, seminar and education day

Midlands: 8 March, New Holland factory visit

Midlands: 11 April, venue TBC, ALS/Maxwell Amenity seminar

East Midlands: 2 May, Hollinwell, golf day

Midlands: 31 May, Nuneaton, golf day

■ South East

London: 13 February, Oaklands College – St Albans Campus, education day

South Coast: 28 February, TBC, section seminar

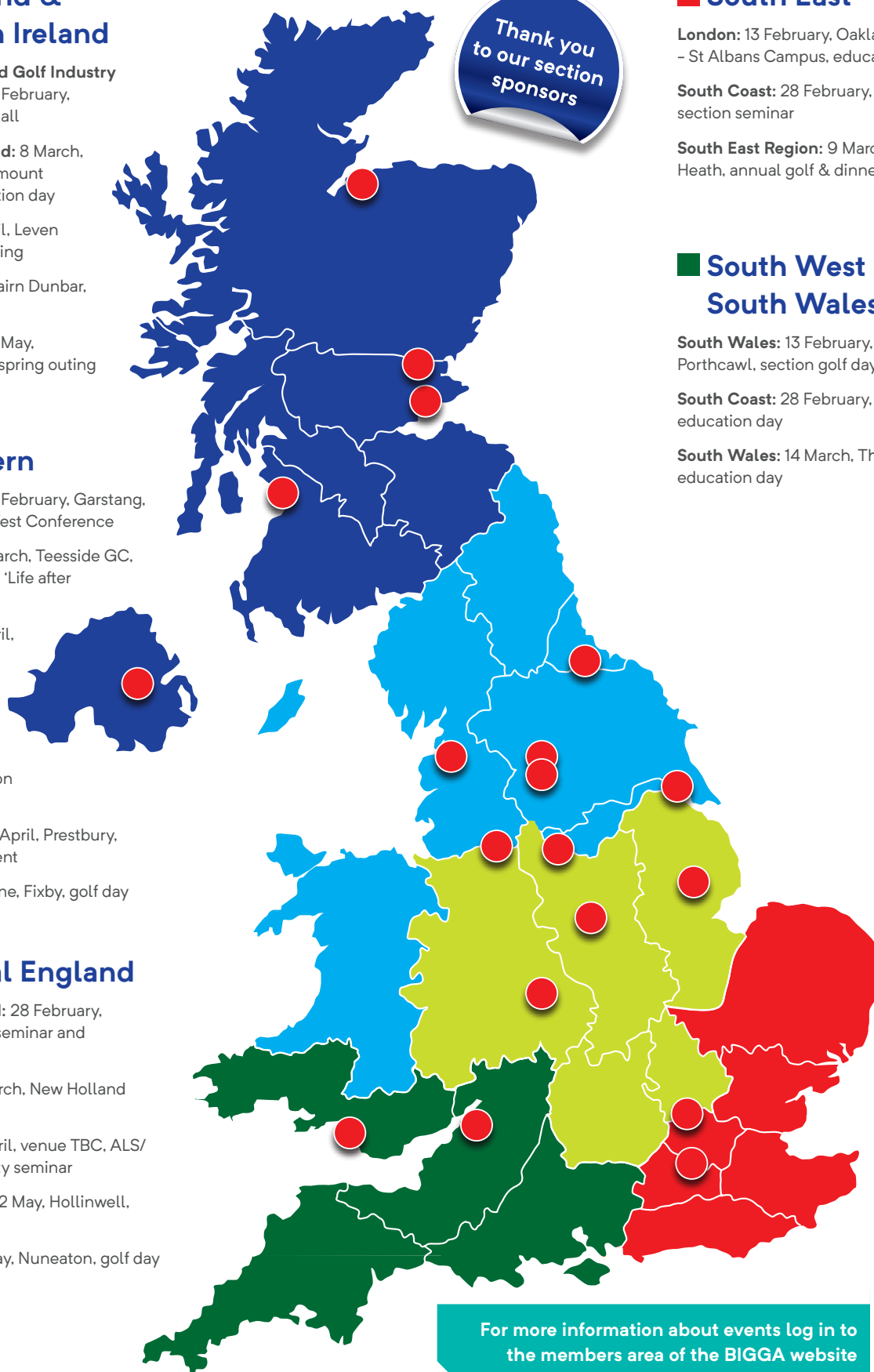
South East Region: 9 March, Walton Heath, annual golf & dinner day

■ South West & South Wales

South Wales: 13 February, Royal Porthcawl, section golf day

South Coast: 28 February, TBC, education day

South Wales: 14 March, Thornbury, education day



For more information about events log in to the members area of the BIGGA website





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"Absolutely outstanding"

Continue to Learn is the most comprehensive education programme for those in the turf industry outside of the USA.

This year's programme featured 78 individual educational classes, presented by more than 60 speakers.

With over 2,500 delegates pre-booking for Continue to Learn at BTME 2018, we knew it was going to be a busy event and it did not fail to deliver!

Almost 3,050 delegates attended education events in the Queen's Suite, Majestic Hotel and Royal Hall, keeping the BIGGA Continue to Learn team on their toes.

The Turf Managers' Conference on Monday 22 January exceeded all expectations, both in the number of attendees (138, breaking all previous attendance records) and in the quality of the presentations.

Micah Woods from the Asian Turfgrass Center proved very popular, not just for his exotic array of ties! Every session he delivered was rated very highly, with many claiming they were some of the best classes they have ever attended at BTME.

John Ross GradIOSH MG gave a thought-provoking presentation on stress awareness, providing an insight into how to recognise the signs in ourselves and others and making suggestions about how to manage it in the workplace. This is a subject that BIGGA is concentrating on, to ensure that support is available for the health and wellbeing of its members.

David Bataller, director of golf at PGA Catalunya, divided opinions about the use of Hydrogen Peroxide to reduce organic matter. He certainly got everyone talking and debating, just what we want the Turf Managers' Conference to do!

This year we introduced the Young Greenkeepers' Conference to the programme. The specific aim of this event was to provide young greenkeepers with the opportunity to meet each other, allowing them to form their own network of colleagues and to provide education at a level to suit them.

The Young Greenkeepers' Committee did a sterling job of welcoming the delegates, providing introductions and helping them through their first taste of a conference.

Our thanks go to Baroness, who not only supplied the sponsorship to make this event possible, but also provided an amazing goodie bag for all attendees!

With so many workshops and Focus On sessions sold out, it is difficult to choose just one to talk about. BIGGA works in conjunction with so many partners and supporters to make Continue to Learn a



The team at Continue to Learn: Adam Rider, Elaine Jones, Lauren Frazer, Deb Burnett, Julie Wilkins, Steve Wragg and Sami Strutt. Not pictured Rachael Duffy, James Hutchinson and Stuart Green.



Micah Woods



The late Ken Richardson with Sami Strutt



Gareth Jones, host of the Turf Manager's Conference



Young Greenkeepers' Committee

varied and interesting education programme, we are very fortunate.

One of our latest partnerships has been formed with the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA). We were pleased to introduce the workshop "Renovating Your Golf Course", delivered by two members of the EIGCA, Tim Lobb and James Edwards.

We also received high praise from Malcolm Hewitt, a management trainer who joined our presenting team in 2017. Malcolm claimed that Continue to Learn is the best organised event that he has ever presented at — worldwide. It's feedback like that, that makes all the effort and hard work that the team put into delivering the event worthwhile.

With so many highlights, we have barely scratched the surface. I'm sure those of you that attended will have your own highlights and have left Harrogate with more knowledge and friends than you arrived with.

Onto Continue to Learn at BTME 2019 now! Proposal to Present is now open for anyone wanting to throw their hat into the ring. Go to: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2P2019 or scan the QR code to submit your proposal, or pass it on to anyone you'd like to see speaking next year.



On a personal note, my success at BIGGA was due largely to Ken Richardson. He was my manager, mentor and friend. He always believed in me and was very proud of the work that I did to continue his legacy, to educate and train greenkeepers. He will be sadly missed, especially by me. Wherever you are Ken, I know you're watching me making sure that I get it right. I'll continue to try my best!



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

Andrew Messenger, Longhurst Hall; Jacob Armal, Worlebury; John Scurfield, Morpeth; Matthew Perks, Sunningdale.

Congratulations to the following members who achieved their CPD Milestone this month:

Grahame Taylor, St Andrews Links Trust.



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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



Apprentice Corner

Stuart Mackie | SRUC (Elmwood)

Are you a college tutor, industry expert or greenkeeper who would like to contribute to Apprentice Corner? Get in touch by emailing karl@bigga.co.uk

How do I learn best?

In any programme of study and learning, this is a question each learner should ask themselves at the beginning of a course of training and education.

We all have the ability to learn, but we do this in so many differing ways and methods. Find out which way you learn best, and then implement this into each course of study you move into, both in theory and practice.

In greenkeeping we need to demonstrate understanding of the theory, and competence in the practice, and your own best learning style can be used in both areas.

There is much evidence and theory that adults and young learners approach learning in different ways and this must be taken into account by all those involved in helping them to learn.

Adults see themselves as independent learners who have specific reasons to learn, as their development is linked to the evolution of their own social role. They need to learn as a response to the here and now and bring experience to learning and value that experience.

Younger learners see themselves as very dependent, their development is physiological and mental, where they see much of their learning as being for the future. They have no or very limited experience to bring into learning, an area they still have to develop.

There are many factors which may influence how people learn, such as ability, motivation, personality, attitude, age, previous experiences of learning and their own well being and time available to learn.

There are also many ways in which to categorise the theories of learning. This can be seen in discussing the models of learning, and when we look at categorising characteristics within adult mature learners and young school learners it becomes clear that they fall into definitive theories. Younger learners fall into the 'physiological' group of learners, while adult mature learners fall into the sociological model.

This shows clear evidence of how these two distinct groups are motivated to learn.

Critical thinking is the capacity to question actions, justifications and decisions and then to imagine alternatives, and this is a more suitable technique to relate to adult learning as they have gained more of their own experiences in life, and can have more input and take on more responsibility in developing their own learning strategies and study pathways.

For example, in learning to hand mow a green, most apprentices will need to develop strategies to learn how to do the following:

Everyone has the ability to learn, no matter age, education and skill set. With a positive need and want to learn, you open up your mindset to achieving your goals.

Understand and use the machine:
Safety aspects:
PPE:
Starting off:
Turning:
Straight lines:
Speed:
Watching ahead.

This is a system of new practices they need to develop and learn very quickly in this industry. So how best to teach them?

Try asking them if they have a hobby or skill or interest away from work they are good at. How did they learn and develop those skills? Perhaps it is playing the guitar or a sport? And if they can describe how they learned and developed that skillset, they can then use the same theory and learning style to help them learn how to hand cut a green.

Practice always makes perfect, but by starting off on a learning style that fits you, you will develop and learn and progress. Whatever you are studying, develop your style of learning, and if you are a teacher, get to know your students' learning styles.

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- Knowledge of IT systems.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and in line with CGCS recommendations.

coursemanager@highpostgolfclub.co.uk
Closing Date: Friday 9 February 2018.

Greenkeepers JCB Golf and Country Club

Greenkeepers required to join our newly constructed golf project in rural Staffordshire.

This is an exciting opportunity to be involved with JCB's latest global marketing initiative to further enhance the reputation of excellence across the brand.

Application to include current CV, by email to: euan.grant@jcb.com

Closing date: 28 February 2018

Assistant, seasonal and apprentice greenkeeping positions. Accommodation is available on site along with a generous benefits package.



Head Greenkeeper, Lymm Golf Club



Assist the Course Manager in the management, preparation and development of the course.

- Proven experience of working within and managing a greenkeeping team.
- NVQ Level 3.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Knowledge of golf course construction and irrigation systems.
- Experience of Health & Safety management.
- The ability to prioritise work schedules.

- Experience of the preparation and operation of greenkeeping machinery, including basic fault finding and servicing.
- Chainsaw and Spraying certification.
- Knowledge of IT systems.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and in line with CGCS recommendations.

coursemanager@highpostgolfclub.co.uk
Closing Date: Friday 9 February 2018.

Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper, Widnes Golf Club

Widnes Golf Club is a Private Members Club founded in 1924 and is located in a scenic parkland setting.

The applicant must have excellent work ethic, dedication, passion, and be a team player with a keen eye for presentation. You will be working as part of a greenkeeping team and this position offers excellent opportunities for progression and career development.

The position also requires the candidate to possess the following attributes:

- NVQ Level 2 Qualification
- Spraying Certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6
- Chainsaw Certificates CS 32/33 would be an advantage but not essential

Please apply in writing or email with full CV and covering letter to:

The Secretary Nicola Ogburn, Widnes Golf Club, Highfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7DT
Email: office@widnesgolfclub.co.uk

Assistant Greenkeepers Wanted Mill Hill Golf Club

Mill Hill Golf Club require 2 Greenkeepers to join our dedicated team.

The ideal candidates would have:

- Minimum 2 — 5 year's Greenkeeping experience
- NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf Management
- Spraying and Chainsaw Qualifications desirable
- A passion to learn and exceed Member expectations
- A Flexible, Can-Do Attitude
- A knowledge of the game of golf

Closing date: 28th February 2018

If you are interested in either of our Assistant Greenkeeper positions, please send your CV and covering letter via e-mail to: david@millhillgc.co.uk

Seasonal Greenkeeping Positions - Sweden 2018

What we offer

- Competitive pay aligned to individual experience
- FREE ACCOMODATION inc. bills and WIFI
- Transport made available for local travel
- Work clothing included
- 6 month contracts

What we're looking for

- Greenkeepers of all levels of experience and positions
- Qualifications in turf management a benefit
- Experience with machinery or irrigation desirable

• Flexibility and positivity a must

Who we are

Interactive Management Agency Limited specialises in recruiting sports turf professionals. Our client, GML Sport manages an expanding portfolio of top golf courses across the Stockholm and Gothenburg regions of southern Sweden.

Want to know more?

Send your CV to info@interactive-management.co.uk or visit our www.interactive-management.co.uk.
Twitter @IntActiveMan

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@golfgreenkeepers and

Twitter @BIGGALtd or visit our

YouTube Channel /biggaorg



Assistant Greenkeeper Fairhaven Golf Club

Fairhaven Golf Club is an 18-hole private members club in Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, which was found in 1895.

Fairhaven has hosted many major championship including, Final Qualifying for the Open, R&A Junior Open, Girls British Open Amateur, the Astor Trophy, the Logan Trophy, Girls Home International Matches and is currently host to Regional Qualifying for the Open.

The position is full-time, permanent and offers a competitive salary and a range of benefits.

Please apply in writing or e-mail with a cover-letter and CV to:

Martin Robinson, General Manager: Fairhaven Golf Club
Oakwood Ave, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 4JU
martin@fairhavengolfclub.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 23rd February 2018



Head Greenkeeper Vilnius, Lithuania

V Golf Club is looking to employ an enthusiastic, highly motivated and hands-on Head Greenkeeper, with a solid track record of people management and of their development, to lead their team of dedicated greens staff and enhance the reputation and status of both the golf course and the club itself.

The successful candidate will be confident and knowledgeable about the game, be able to build relationships and lines of communication with staff, members and Club management.

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate a proven track record of high standard golf course presentation.

Apply via email by 28th February 2018 to: bjdhal@specgroup.co.uk

Location: V Golf Club, Vilnius Grand Resort

Website: www.vilniusgrandresort.lt

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Head Greenkeeper Llanishen Golf Club

Llanishen Golf Club, in Cardiff, has an exciting opportunity for an experienced and qualified Head Greenkeeper to take responsibility for the management and development of our 18-hole golf course.

The successful candidate will report directly to the Manager and will be responsible for the management of their team, their budget and the course.

The position is based on a 42.5 hour week, including weekends, worked on a rota basis; flexibility will be essential, particularly over the summer months.

In return, you will receive a competitive salary package.

Closing date - 28 February 2018.

If you feel that you are the right person for this position then apply with a CV and covering letter to: manager@llanishengolfclub.com



BIGGA Health and Safety Management System



Brought to you by Xact

BIGGA's online health and safety management system, provides a comprehensive guide to all of the risks faced by greenkeepers during their day-to-day life.

For further help and information contact Xact

T: 0330 332 2636
(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)
E: enquiries@xact.com
W: bigga.xactassist.co.uk



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Around the Globe

Stuart Crossan | Bella Vista Golf Park

What is the most interesting thing you would tell other BIGGA members about your country?

Germany is obviously a very big country. Here in Bavaria in the south, they have their own laws, identity and culture. I am based in the spa resort of Bad Birnbach in lower Bavaria, close to the Austrian border. This area is a popular tourist destination. In the 1930s, while drilling for oil, a thermal spring was discovered at a depth of 1,700 metres, which provides healing water for the spa.

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

Bella Vista Golf Park's location would make it moorland. Its style would be more inland links with deep bunkers, undulating fescue greens and long rough separating the holes.

How does greenkeeping in Germany vary from the UK?

We have tight restrictions on pesticide and water usage in this area of Germany, which obviously has an effect on turf condition. The cost of labour is also pretty high, so you generally have a smaller maintenance team and rely on seasonal workers. In this part of the country you work long hours during the season with the overtime being repaid in the winter months when the course closes.

How does the weather affect your work?

In southern Germany we would expect to get a harsh winter with temperatures sinking well below

freezing for at least two months. Heavy snowfall is also common, which can create issues with turf health in spring. In summer we would expect long periods of hot, humid weather increasing disease pressure. Regular thunderstorms and flash flooding means repairs are often needed on washed out paths and bunkers.

What is your club management structure like?

Construction of Bella Vista began in 2005 and I arrived in spring 2007 for the grow-in phase. The course was built and is operated by the local authority in conjunction with the local hotels and the existing spa resort. As well as the 18-hole course we have a 9-hole short course and driving range which is open to beginners. We have cycling and Nordic walking paths on the perimeter of the golf park and a large housing and hotel development is also part of the concept. The 18-hole course is pay and play and is set up for

tourism, although we do have an internal club made up of locals and country members. I report to the general manager who reports to a board of directors.

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

The golf clubs I worked for in Scotland provided BIGGA membership as part of your employment contract. When I moved abroad I kept my membership going to enable me to keep in touch with industry back home. I have also benefitted from a subsidised education at college and BTME through my membership.

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

The best time to move abroad is when you are young with no family ties. Have an open mind and try and get a grip of the language as quick as possible.

Bella Vista Golf Park



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