



# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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Featured Inside

# Martin Slumbers

Talks greenkeeping and  
the future of golf

The BIGGA Delegation with Bernhard Company  
Tree Management | Chemical Update | Turfgrass Nutrition



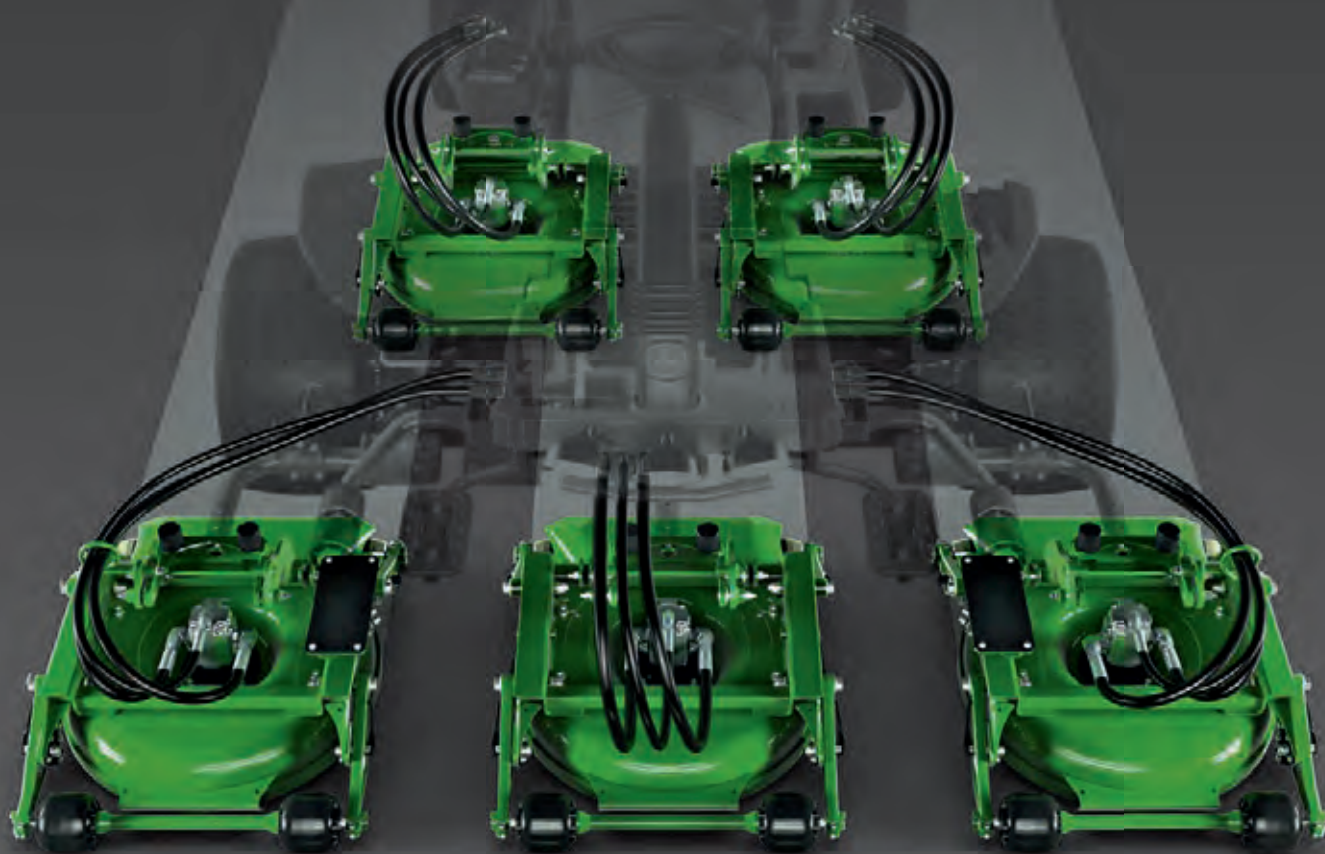


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The official monthly magazine of the  
British and International Golf Greenkeepers  
Association Limited.

**GI GREENKEEPER  
INTERNATIONAL**

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Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that June appear. Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World £95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.



ISSN: 0961— 6977  
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# Welcome



Winter turns to summer at Lickey Hills



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

**Just a few weeks ago, the country was in the grip of a combination of 'The Beast from the East' and Storm Emma, and the golf season seemed a very long way away.**

In reality though, many clubs are just a few short weeks away from the first events or competitions that signify the summer is upon us. I wonder how many golfers will remember what their course looked like on 1 March when The Masters starts a month later?

The challenge to manage golfer expectations continues, and we are committed to providing our members with both the skills and the tools to meet that challenge. The response to our recent publication, Your Course, has been superb, thanks for all the feedback. As you know, it is hugely gratifying to get positive feedback from your members and customers so to have started 2018 with a brilliant BTME and the successful launch of Your Course means there is a good feeling amongst the team.

Importantly the good feedback on Your Course hasn't just come

from members, I have received dozens of comments from club managers, greens chairmen and the wider golf industry, including Martin Slumbers, who is a key contributor to this month's edition. In my opinion we are in an important moment in the governance of the sport of golf in the UK. In nearly 25 years in the sport I have never known such a feeling of collaboration between the organisations that govern the game and, importantly, I believe our part of the industry is firmly at the heart of the discussions.

There are a number of reasons for this; climate change, regulatory pressure and scarcity of resource are key external factors, but the work of BIGGA and its members to elevate the importance of the golf course to the playing of the sport is a major contributing factor. It is pleasing to see Martin unveil the R&A's Golf Course 2030 initiative in his interview. This is a significant initiative that puts the sustainability of courses and their management at the heart of the sport's top-level discussions and we're very pleased to be working closely with the R&A to drive it forward.

As usual at this time of year I am just about 'conferenced' out. BTME always kicks off a run of events including the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show, FEGGA's annual conference and many local events in the UK. Congratulations should be sent to all those responsible for putting on a memorable season of learning and development. As you will read later in these pages, the BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhard Company had an action-packed trip to the GIS. It was heartening to see their hashtag #stillten and as usual, the 10 delegates bonded together and took advantage of all the opportunities on offer brilliantly. It was a pleasure spending time with them when the chance arose.

Taking place alongside the GIS in San Antonio was the biennial International Summit of greenkeeping associations. Representatives of 27 associations came together to discuss global collaboration on education, promoting the profession and sustainability. We can learn so much from each other, just as our members continue to learn from each other closer to home.





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# From the Editor



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

## Making strides forward for everyone

There's a news story within this journal that talks about 180 BIGGA members attending a London Section education conference at Oaklands College.

And at the end of February I was privileged to attend the Scottish Region's Annual Conference, held at Perth Concert Hall and featuring keynote addresses from former European Tour number one Ronan Rafferty and R&A Chief Executive Martin Slumbers.

For anyone who questions what they gain from membership of this association, it's clear that you get out of it what you put in. There's a reason why these ground-breaking events are so popular, and it's no coincidence that those who attend are largely enjoying a great degree of success, both out on the course and in their own professional development.

We've been delighted by the response to Your Course, BIGGA's 'other' magazine, that has been distributed to every golf course in the country. We've also sent a copy to every course manager and head greenkeeper member of the association, but if you haven't come across it yet, you are able to access the magazine via the BIGGA website.

On the website, we've also taken the opportunity to break it down into the separate features, and I'd encourage you to download these if they are particularly relevant to your course. There was even one BIGGA head greenkeeper who downloaded the digital version and distributed the

magazine to every one of his golf club's members via email.

Through our combined efforts, we're going to make golfers more aware of what goes into the maintenance of a golf course and, hopefully, this will lead to a greater appreciation and understanding of the challenges you face. If this reduces the pressure imposed on BIGGA members, and reduces the stress you are put under, then it's going to be a huge success.

So how much does the casual golfer know about course maintenance? You'd imagine that at present, it isn't a huge amount. But what about the names at the very highest level of the game? This month we were fortunate enough to get the opportunity to speak to the R&A Chief Executive, Martin Slumbers, prior to his appearance at the Scottish conference, about his view on the plight of greenkeepers, and how he feels organisations such as the R&A can help our members.

All being well, by the time you read this we'll have a brand new website up and running, giving you an improved digital offering and greater access to the benefits of BIGGA membership. It's taken a huge amount of work from a number of people at BIGGA HQ, and thanks must go to all those who have contributed to the site's development, through our web user survey and otherwise.

All of which is to say, there can be no doubt that the association is an exciting place to be right now.

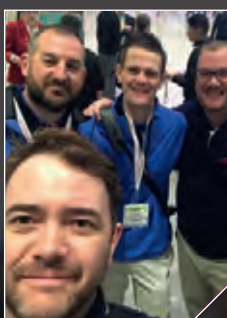


# In this Issue

## Our contributors

### 24 BIGGA Delegation

Known as 'The Magnificent Ten', the BIGGA delegates to the Golf Industry Show, sponsored by Bernhard, underwent a rigorous selection process, prior to joining an elite group of BIGGA members who have taken part in the trip. Read about their American adventure in this feature, and then keep an eye out for when applications open later this year.



### 30 John Nicholson

John has worked at over 400 golf courses, giving advice on trees and woodlands, conservation management and habitat restoration. For this feature he gave Greenkeeper International a tour of Chester-le-Street, to see the culmination of a 20-year tree management programme.



### 38 Martin Slumbers

Appointed chief executive of the R&A in 2015, Martin came into the role at a challenging period for the association. This month we got the opportunity to ask Martin about how aware he is of the challenges faced by BIGGA members all over the country, and how he feels The R&A can help us achieve our goals.



### 52 Adi Porter

The man who helped bring a Golf Environment Award to Greetham Valley in 2017, we spoke to Adi about the glamorous subject of compost, and asked for his advice on creating this low-cost and sustainable turf nutrition product.



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BIGGA's CPD system has been revamped, with a faster and simpler way to claim credits



# Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

**TORO**  
**STUDENT  
GREENKEEPER  
OF THE YEAR  
AWARDS  
2018**

## Important dates:

**Deadline for application forms:** 18 May 2018

**Regional interviews:**  
2-13 July 2018

**National final at BIGGA HQ:** 17-18 September 2018

**T**oro Student Greenkeeper of the Year is returning for 2018, with two prizes once again up for grabs.

Last year Nick Machin of Royal Cinque Ports and Angus Roberts of Roxburghe Hotel and Golf Course were crowned winners of the awards, which for 30 years have sought to recognise and acknowledge the brightest talents in the future of the industry.

Nick won the established Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, while Angus became only the second winner of

the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

The prize for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner is an incredible six-week scholarship, which sees the winner travel to the University of Massachusetts to study turf management and also includes a trip to the Golf Industry Show and a visit to the Toro factory.

The winner of the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year award receives a two-week work placement at the exclusive Vidauban Golf Club in France, plus a trip to Continue to Learn at BTME.

Major prizes are also available for the awards runners-up and those who nominate the students.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award is available to all greenkeeping students studying for eligible qualifications, while the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year award is specifically for greenkeeping students aged 20 years and under.

'All I can say is that if you are thinking about doing Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, then do it. If you know someone you could nominate then put their name forward and help them apply. To win the competition is a potentially life changing event, but also one of the best experiences you'll ever have!'

Nick Machin, Royal Cinque Ports



To apply for Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards visit

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QH75LYL](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QH75LYL)

Or to endorse an applicant visit:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WCKZXHC](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WCKZXHC)





## 'Running Vicar'



**The sister-in-law of a former BIGGA deputy chief executive who passed away during January is planning on running the Edinburgh Marathon in his memory.**

Ken Richardson passed away on Saturday 13 January aged 73 and sister-in-law, Rev Alison Richardson, will take part in the marathon to raise money for brain tumour research.

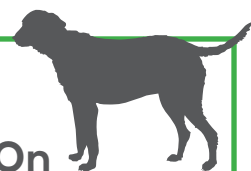
Known by her nickname, 'The Running Vicar' Alison said: "I have never run a marathon before and at my age I'm not sure I ought to be doing so now!"

Head to the news section of the BIGGA website to find out more and learn how you can donate in support of Alison.



# Dogs

On  
Course



**Name:** Floyd

**Age:** Four

**Owner:** Steven Byrne

**Course:** Aintree Golf Centre

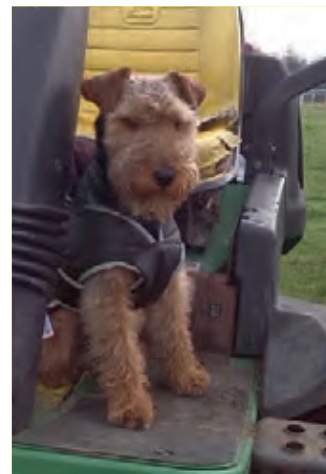
**Breed:** Welsh Terrier

**Favourite treat:** Absolutely loves cheese

**Favourite spot on the course:**  
By the lake

**Naughtiest moment:** Jumping in the lake to get a balloon on Christmas Eve, then rolling in goose poo to dry himself, after having his Christmas haircut and bath two days before. Who knew geese could smell so bad?

**My dog is happiest when...** dodging sprinklers around the greens. He attacks from side on after learning the hard way about attacking face on.



P.S. If my boss is reading this, now you know why your coat smelt of goose poo!

**If you know a dog we should feature, email**  
[karl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:karl@bigga.co.uk)

Newsdesk

**TORO**

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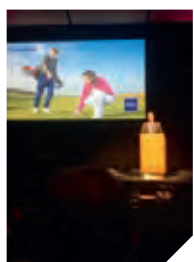
**@AnthonySunney**

#BraceYourselfes  
@BIGGALtd



**@AlisterMatheson**

Great weather to work through our Health and Safety Assessments!  
@Crudenbaygolf



**@LyleDavidson89**

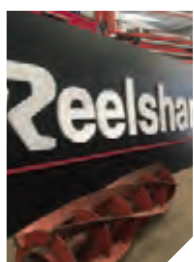
Fantastic day of education @BIGGALtd Scottish Golf Industry Conference 2018.

Highlight was @RandA CEO Martin Slumbers on the state of the game #CPD



**@RichardFlea**

Just opened my @BIGGALtd welcome pack looking forward to all the benefits of being part of the association #greenkeepergoodies @eddielee33



**@ReelsharpLtd**

Massive thanks to everyone who attended today. @BIGGALtd @BIGGANorthReg @PhilColl\_ICL John and the gents at Garstang for letting us use their sheds. Lots of interesting presentations, always learning



**@CMnairndunbar**

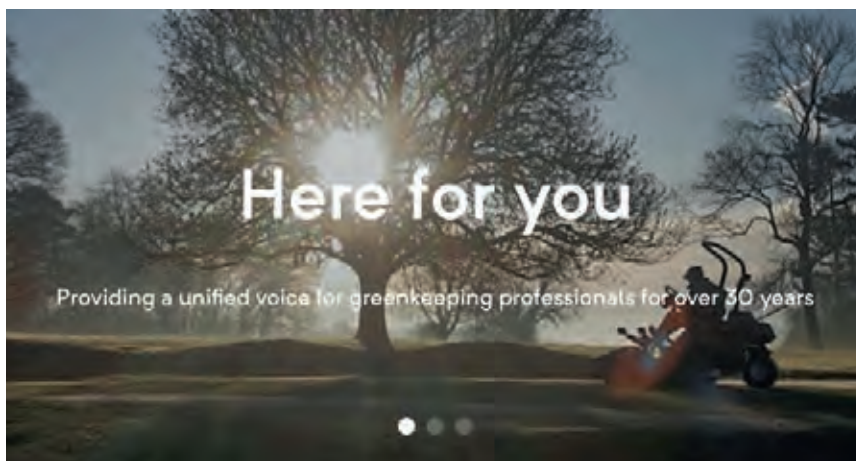
Fantastic day spent @BIGGALtd Scottish Golf Industry Conference 2018. Some great speakers covering a range of industry related topics 🏌️📖 #CPD #education #stress #networking #ANDYSMANCLUB #sustainability



**@mattpurcell35**

@MarriottForestA @BIGGALtd @BIGGA\_YGC just what you need when working on bunkers #revetting #Greenkeeping

## BIGGA website relaunch



**BIGGA will soon be launching our new website, offering members a modern platform to access education, useful documents and videos, volunteering opportunities, member benefits and discussion forums.**

Thank you to everyone who took the time and effort to fill in our web user questionnaire last year. Your feedback helped to shape the direction and appearance of the new BIGGA website, which will come online very soon.

### What will be better?

- There is a whole new fresh look to the site, featuring our most requested feature – a search button!
- Those new to greenkeeping and the turf industry will be able to join BIGGA and pay securely online
- The new site is mobile and tablet friendly
- Golf clubs will be able to post jobs online
- Members will be able to update their details and renew membership online
- There will be a directory of products and services searchable by topic and region
- Members will be able to tell us about special interests and receive personalised home pages, where you will see stories relating to topics you are interested in, and information about events taking place in your local area
- Non-members will be able to register for web-use only
- If you read about a topic that you think will interest others, we've made sharing interesting articles and news on social media much easier

### Will I be able to log straight into the members' area?

- When we launch the new site, you will receive a welcome email with a secure link to set a new password. You will then be able to login with either your email address or membership number.
- Reserved exclusively for BIGGA members, this area will feature special resources, the lending library, member news and group discussions. You'll also be able to interact and share knowledge with other BIGGA members

### Is this the final version?

**We have designed the website to evolve with us so that new features can be added. Continue to give us feedback and we'll be able to develop the website offering to suit the needs of our members.**

To give feedback on the new website, or for more information, email [info@bigga.co.uk](mailto:info@bigga.co.uk)



## London stages 'largest' event

The London Section, in conjunction with Oaklands College, held what is believed to be the largest-ever section event in the UK.

The annual seminar took place at Oaklands College with a record 186 people attending.

Oaklands College's Andy Wight said: "The level of positive feedback from those who attended showed the seminar to be a great success.

"The section is now wondering how it can top this next year!"

In conjunction with the event, the Oaklands College Student Greenkeeper of the Year award was presented to Thomas Boyle of Fox Hills.

Thomas was presented with the 'other' Ryder Cup for his commitment and high level of motivation with regard to his studies by his tutor Rob Dowling.



Thomas Boyle accepts the 'other' Ryder Cup

The trophy was given to the college in the 1920s by Samuel Ryder, who also created the famous golf tournament.

Speaking at the section event was: Dr David Greenshields, of Barenburg; James Bledge, course manager at Royal Cinque Ports; Allan Patterson, director of golf courses and estates at Trump Turnberry; and Dr Kate Entwistle of The Turf Disease Centre.

## Stress Management

BIGGA will be running four stress management workshops this spring to help members identify the pressures surrounding stress in the workplace and how to manage it for both yourself and your staff.

Richard Elwell from Ethical Influence will be delivering the workshops and he has already received tremendous feedback from the sessions he has delivered so far.

The free sessions are aimed at all members and lasts three hours.

There will be a second series of workshops in the autumn including Scotland for which dates will be announced later in the year. The full details can be seen on the BIGGA website.

Northern — Tuesday 13 March at Aldwark Manor book via [sandra@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sandra@bigga.co.uk)

Central England — Thursday 15 March at Cold Ashby book via [roger@bigga.co.uk](mailto:roger@bigga.co.uk)

South East — Thursday 19 April at Westerham Golf Club book via [kerry@bigga.co.uk](mailto:kerry@bigga.co.uk)

South West South Wales — Thursday 26 April at Hockley Golf Club book via [tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk)

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# Across the Board

Chris Sheehan | West Derby Golf Club | Vice President

**I was shocked, delighted and humbled when the Board of Management of BIGGA asked if I would consider the position of Vice President.**

I've been in greenkeeping for 38 years, spending my whole career here at West Derby in Merseyside. Previously I worked as a cook and baker, then as a foreman in a food-canning factory. But I had a family connection in greenkeeping and when the chance came to work on the course I took it and have never looked back.

I've been the course manager here for 29 years and it was early in my greenkeeping life that I got involved in BIGGA. It has always been easy to complain about the industry, but my feeling has always been that if you want things to improve you've got to be part of the process, so I joined my local section committee. I've now been involved within BIGGA's North West Section for more years than I care to remember. I have been section secretary, chairman and also chairman of the Northern Region.

No person or organisation is perfect and I would be the first to admit that we make mistakes now and then. But it is important we as an Association learn from that, and by that, I mean all of us, not just the staff and board. My message is that if you want to see change, then get involved. This could be as little as giving us a bit of news for the section's Around the Green report.

When I first got onto the committee I was amazed at how little communication took place between members. Greenkeepers were very insular and there was

little communication within teams, let alone with other clubs.

The section provided golf days and seminars and for me these were great. They gave me the opportunity to speak with fellow greenkeepers and ask them questions. Some were a bit dubious about giving me information and others were more than helpful. In those days some guys were definitely concerned that helping train others could do them out of a job. I always had a different approach and am so proud that four of my previous staff have gone on to be head greenkeepers themselves.

I thought it was essential to communicate with the golf clubs in my area, so I invited the head greenkeepers and the chair of greens from all of the local clubs to get together. We put some food on, had a beer and just talked.

This proved to be a great success and was repeated over a number of years. I think that when we talk to each other we glean lots of information which helps us in many ways, not only in our jobs but also relieves some of the stresses we all feel.

Fast forward to 2018 and communication has never been easier, but still there are areas in which we struggle. Too often we hear about members in difficulty, be it employment issues or health, too late to be able to effectively assist. Equally it is hard to provide the services our members need if we don't know what they are, we are not the all-seeing eye. You, our members, must make that call or send that email so our excellent staff and board members can provide the help they require.

Chris Sheehan and Chris Kennedy





# 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

James Hutchinson | BIGGA Sustainability Executive

GI Ecology  
sponsored by  
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**A**ll sorts of furry and feathery things have been showing up on golf courses this past month.

We've had all the usual stuff like shrews, redwings and kestrels, whereas a whole bunch of even-toed ungulates made an appearance in Derby.

But first, how's this for initiative? The guys at the brilliant nine-hole Rothes GC are recycling their cans and other such waste into neat receptacles which they built — super stuff team! It's small projects such as this that make a big difference in the end (I'm loving the bug hotel too).

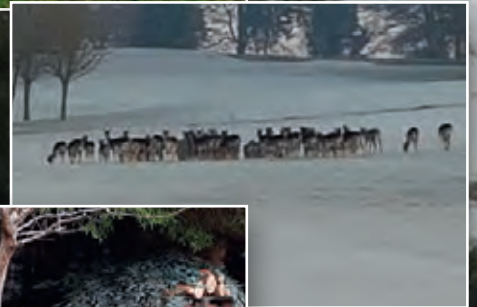
Purdis Heath has been at it again with its first-class heathland management as this brash, rank grass and old heather removal snap shows. The idea here is to expose the underlying dormant seeds in the hope they will burst into life when the environmental conditions are right! Can't beat a bit of heathland restoration can you? Great work guys.

While undertaking rough thinning at Stapleford Park, the team were joined by a beauty of a raptor, a barn owl. These specialist hunters will have struggled over the last few months, given the amount of rain we've had, as their feathers are quite soft and do not dry easily. Is it any wonder their numbers are down to around 3,000 breeding pairs?

Keeping with the sharp beak and claw theme, take a look at this fizzier in Pannal's car park, a red kite. Numbers of these birds were as low as a few breeding females a while back, but conservation groups undertook fab work to bring their figures back to about 1,600 pairs. How good is that?

And finally, on to those even-toed ungulates I mentioned (or deer to the normal person). How about these beauties at Morley Hayes? Aren't they super! I do, however, feel a change is coming. Deer numbers here in the UK are fast becoming a problem as they have a habit of eating new trees, wildflowers and other such important woodland flora. Is a widespread cull beckoning? It would be sad if it were to happen, but they have no natural predators like bears and wolves anymore and as a result are becoming troublesome. Personally, I'd like to see bears and wolves back, but that's just me.

Send your sightings to @Ecology1BIGGA or [james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk](mailto:james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk)



**Top to bottom:**

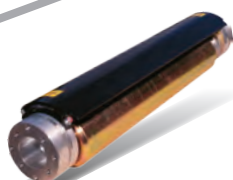
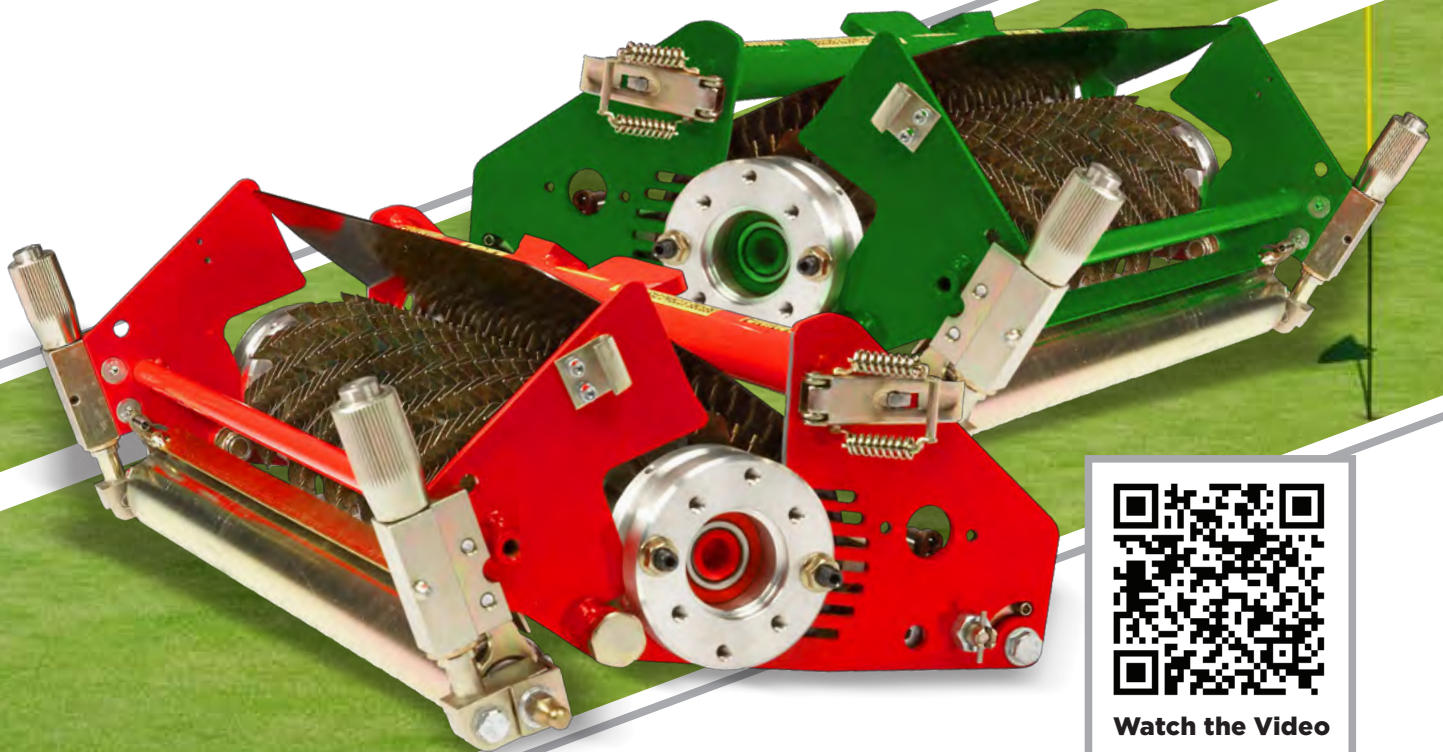
Heather removal at Ipswich GC; deer at Morley Hayes; recycling bins at Rothes; a barn owl at Stapleford Park  
**Background:** Red kite at Pannal



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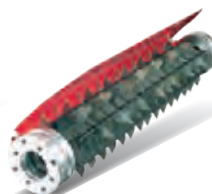
The tools for perfection



Greens Roller



Deep Slicer



Groomer



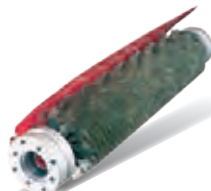
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# YGC

## Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Jack Hetherington | Course Manager | Alnwick Castle

**W**hen my regional administrator, Sandra Raper, asked me if I would like to put my name forward to be a founding member of the Young Greenkeepers' Committee, my first reaction was 'I have no idea what you're talking about'.

My next thought was, how much will it add to my work load?

Finally I thought, 'what the hell, fake it till you make it, you will probably learn from it.'

Fast-forward three years and it is now time for me to step down as chairman and for Tom Smith to continue in the role.

I have no doubt he will enjoy it as much as I have and ensure the good work of the YGC continues.

I think it is fair to say that initially the YGC took a little time to find its bearings and settle into a suitable running format.

The first meeting we held at BTME 2015 was a room full of young, quiet greenkeepers that for the most part had little-to-no committee experience. We needed to create a relaxed environment to encourage ideas to flourish, along with a system to see those ideas carried out.

We then had to create the structure of the YGC, which included minimum requirements for committee members and roles and responsibilities for each member. I was voted in as chairman and with a good environment and structure in place, it was time to work towards having an impact on young greenkeepers in the industry.

This effort has seen sectional and regional education and golf days aimed at young greenkeepers, presentations to schools and colleges, representation at BTME including presentations at Continue to Learn, tournament support volunteering, Bunker Camp volunteering and most recently the first YGC Conference at BTME 2018.

Baroness has kindly sponsored the YGC Conference and YGC activity in 2018, and that will be a massive help towards the committee achieving its goals for 2018.



I look forward to seeing what is next for the YGC and wish them luck with everything moving forward.

My time on the YGC has been an invaluable tool for helping me develop professionally through committee experience, communicating on many levels, organisational skills and working to deadlines, to name but a few.

When I set out to hopefully learn from the experience, I had no idea how much I would actually take from it. I would recommend anyone thinking about putting their name forward, to do so, because of this.

Being part of the YGC has led to me being appointed chairman of the Northern Region, as of November 2018. I will be continuing my 'fake it till you make it' approach, gaining some knowledge and attempting to maintain an enjoyable environment, in which we will strive to make a difference.

YGC Conference at BTME 2018

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Membership

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Lifestyle Counselling  
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## Membership

# BIGGA Open support team

**BIGGA has unveiled the line-up for the volunteer support team that will be heading to Carnoustie Golf Links this July as it hosts The Open for the eighth time.**

BIGGA members who gain a place on the team are given unprecedented access to the world's greatest golf event, with a greenkeeper on hand to assist every single match that will take place throughout the championship.

Each year the R&A requests BIGGA's assistance with hosting the championship, meaning BIGGA members have been on hand to witness some of the greatest moments in the history of the game, including Jordan Spieth's spectacular final round at Royal Birkdale in 2017.

Every BIGGA member is eligible to apply to take part and Kimberley Yeldham, deputy head greenkeeper at Royal West Norfolk, is joining the Support Team for the first time.

Jordan Spieth at  
The Open 2017



She said: "I applied to be a part of the team because last year I was given the opportunity to volunteer at the RICOH British Ladies Open, which made me see a different side of greenkeeping and I fell in love with it. I'm really excited to have gotten a place on the team as I hope to be able to promote female greenkeepers and to encourage more to join the industry."

"I also hope to be able to meet new people and take the things I learn back to my own course."

The 147th Open Championship will be the eighth hosted at Carnoustie, on the course laid out by legendary course architect James Braid in 1926.

The Open support  
team 2017







Since then, Carnoustie's Championship course has been regarded as one of Britain's finest, and most challenging, tests of golf.

The excellent Carnoustie greenkeeping team, led by the links superintendent, Sandy Reid, and the Championship course's head greenkeeper, Craig Boath, will have the course in immaculate condition for the world's finest players.

In January, Carnoustie was named Environmental Golf Course of the Year 2018 at the Golf Environment Awards, in a ceremony hosted by the STRI and The R&A.

The course's 112 bunkers can play an important role in deciding who lifts the Claret Jug, as in 1975 when Johnny Miller lost the championship when it took him two shots to get out of a bunker on the 18th, and it will once again be up to the BIGGA Volunteer Support Team to ensure they are maintained to the highest standard.

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer Jim Croxton said: "Carnoustie has played host to some incredible

moments in Open Championship history. Who can forget Padraig Harrington's play-off victory in 2007, or Paul Lawrie's dramatic victory over Jean Van de Velde in 1999? I'm delighted that once again The R&A has requested the assistance of BIGGA, allowing us the opportunity to offer some of our most hard-working members such an incredible opportunity to get inside the ropes.

"It's a long week, and our team works extremely hard, but the rewards are incredible. Playing a small part in the success of the world's greatest golf event is hugely satisfying."

The BIGGA Support Team will be provided with accommodation, food, refreshments and uniform for the event.

**The 147th Open Championship takes place from 19-22 July 2018.**

**Thank you to everyone who applied to be part of this year's team.**

## Here are the BIGGA members who will be assisting the home greenkeeping team at Carnoustie:

Stuart Aho, Thetford;  
 Daniel Ashelby, Wilmslow;  
 Mark Bettell, The Rayleigh Club;  
 John Bowers, Crail Golfing Society;  
 Stuart Broom, Honiton;  
 James Bruder, East Berkshire;  
 Andrew Cussen, John O'Gaunt;  
 Stephen Davey, Queenwood;  
 James Dobie, Leyland;  
 Anthony Duffield, Ham Manor;  
 Sam Dunn, Stover;  
 Josh Dunn, The Belfry;  
 Glenn Dyer, Huntercombe;  
 Daniel Evans, Maesdu Llandudno;  
 Sam Evans, Fulwell;  
 Stuart Ferguson MG, Dundas Park;  
 Joe Frampton, Pyle & Kenfig;  
 Dean Franks, Littlehampton;  
 Jim Gilchrist, Harborne;  
 Tony Gooch, Great Torrington;  
 Richard Holmes, Crosland Heath;  
 Dale Housden, Hollywood;  
 Jamie Hughes, Lyme Regis;  
 Graham Ives, Louth;  
 Kevin Hensman, Rowlands Castle;  
 Graeme Macdonald, Newark;  
 Graeme Main, Porters Park;  
 Anthony McGeough, Richmond;  
 Michael Mead, Littlehampton;  
 George Mitchell, Newmacher;  
 Grant Moran, Morton Hall;  
 Richard Mullen, Banchory;  
 John Murray, Golfpark Oberkirch;  
 Finbarr O'Mahony, Kanturk;  
 Richard Ponsford, The Bristol;  
 Leigh Powell, Windlesham;  
 Angus Roberts, Roxburghe;  
 John Scurfield, Morpeth;  
 Blair Shearer, Dunbar;  
 Charlie Simper, Hadley Wood;  
 Ash Smith, Meltham;  
 Robert Smith, Pannal;  
 Andy Unwin, Birley Wood;  
 John Waite, Scarthingwell;  
 Paul Walton, Sharpley Springs;  
 Tom Workman, Minchinhampton;  
 Kimberley Yeldham, Royal West Norfolk





# 9hole heroes

Celebrating BIGGA's nine-hole greenkeepers

Eddie Ainsworth | Avro Golf Club

## 1. What is your job title?

Course manager

## 2. How long have you worked in the industry?

I have been in the industry for 24 years, starting on a youth training scheme at Caldry Golf Club, under the guidance of then-head greenkeeper Ian Farrell.

## 3. I like working on a nine-hole course because...

Since we opened to pay and play, it's great to get the feedback off the local golfers who have never played here before. You can get a bit bogged down by the comments made by the same members all the time, so getting a new perspective on the course is great.

## 4. What is the most difficult part of your job?

Compaction and presentation. Being a 9-hole course it's obvious we get double the traffic, but thanks to investment by the committee we now have two verti-drains, which are helping our course.

Although we are building on our resources, we lack the manpower to constantly present the course in the way I would like to on a daily basis. To reduce the cost to the club, I try and keep everything as much as possible in-house. This means more work for me and my assistant, Wayne Atkinson, which also has an effect on presentation. It's frustrating for everyone, but the committee are trying to rectify this problem.

## 5. How many staff do you have?

Myself and Wayne are the only staff here at Avro. My chairman of greens, Vic Tarr, helps out during the summer months, with strimming and divoting duties. My assistant Wayne has recently passed his Level 2 apprenticeship with Myerscough College.

## 6. What is your machinery budget and what do you use?

It's crazy when I look back and think I only had three mowers and some very aging equipment when I first took on the role as course manager. It's taken a lot of blood,

**Do you know a greens team you think deserves recognition on 9 Hole Heroes?**

Email [karl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:karl@bigga.co.uk)

sweat and tears from both myself and my committee to get the fleet we have today.

But it's not just about what we have in our shed that's important. Service and back-up are key for running our nine-hole course and Peter McGreevy of Cheshire Turf Machinery and Ian Campbell of Campey Turf Care have provided amazing service and back up, when our fleet is not so well.

## 7. What is your chemicals budget and what do you use?

I have built up a great professional relationship with John Mooney of Rigby Taylor. I have discussed in great detail my requirements, and what I am trying to achieve here at Avro. I also run a separate programme, along with Jeremy Hughes of Symbio, using compost tea. We have been fungicide free the last two years, so things are going the way I want.

## 8. What is the strangest comment a golfer has ever said to you?

I guess that will have to go to one of my lady members, who tried to kick me off the course during course prep. She was telling me I was unable to play due to it being Ladies' day. Still unsure to this day why my Toro 3250-D didn't give things away.

## 9. What is the best tip you have received?

Our industry is full of people with great tips and advice, but the two that have stuck with me are:

"Life isn't about finding yourself, it's about creating yourself."

"Work to live, not live to work."

Left: Eddie and his assistant Wayne

Right: Eddie won a Golf Environment Award in 2017





# WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO

"The Jacobsen Eclipse2 is one of the simplest machines to use. You can regulate the frequency of clip with the push of a button which means that all of our greens have a superb, consistent after-cut appearance."

"The 15-blade cutting unit is the best I have seen. It is so precise; the finish is out of this world. When it matters, the Eclipse2 always delivers. It is the only machine I would want on our greens for the Ryder Cup."

**Alejandro Reyes**

Golf and Courses and Estate Manager,  
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# Industry Update

The latest news

## Pinseeker

One of the UK's largest golf course equipment manufacturers has appointed industry stalwart Gordon Peebles as Scottish region sales manager.

With the launch of a range of recycled plastic furniture for the golf course, Pinseeker is looking to further its customer base in Scotland.

Gordon brings with him a wealth of experience and is particularly looking forward to re-establishing his network of contacts.

"There are exciting times ahead," said Gordon.



Gordon Peebles



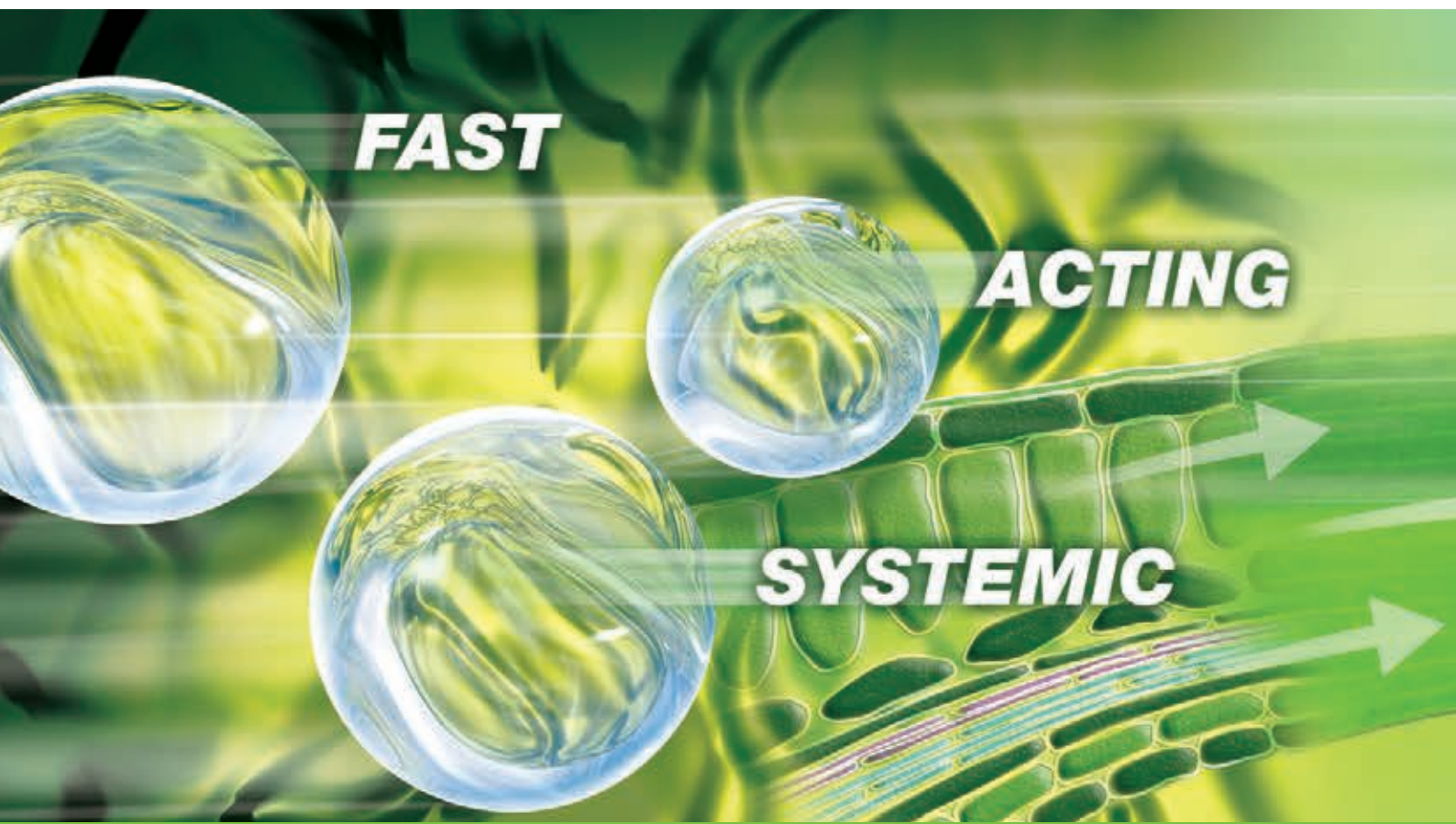
## Bionema

Bionema has developed a selection of specialist training programmes to help maximise the potential of biologically-benign biopesticides for crops, plants and amenity areas.

Dr Minshad Ansari, managing director of Bionema, said: "The key message to leading commercial distributors and end users, which includes greenkeepers, is that natural pest control makes even more sense, as traditional pesticides lose efficiency and many are delisted."

Minshad added how turf professionals increasing need to know how to handle living organisms, such as nematodes, fungi, bacteria and beneficial insects.

The training courses will give users a complete understanding of biopesticide application through a practical integrated pest management system within their own environment. The next edition of these courses will be held from 14-16 March at the Lantra headquarters at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.





# Huxley Golf and Help for Heroes

Huxley Golf has completed its third project for Help for Heroes, installing a large putting green at the charity's Northern Recovery Centre at the Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.

The project comes on the back of two similar successful projects conducted at the charity's recovery centres at Tedworth House, Wiltshire and at Chavassee VC House, Essex.

The putting green was officially opened at a ceremony by Bernie Broad, Invictus Team GB captain, and Peter Scrivener, trustee of Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation, which funded the project.

Bernie said: "I was introduced to golf while going through my recovery and it was such an enabler for me. It gave me such a challenge and a reason to get out of bed some mornings.

"The putting green at Catterick will enable individuals to get outside and do something out of the ordinary, clear their minds and breathe in the fresh air. Good putting is also key to good golf and a low handicap!"



Huxley Golf's putting green at the Northern Recovery Centre



Bernie Broad and Peter Scrivener

The facility will be used by short stay, day visitors and guests to Phoenix House who take part in activities and courses to help them get back out, doing what they enjoy most. Beneficiaries are encouraged to develop their own recovery programme under the guidance of specialist staff and may involve participation in sports and guidance on health and wellbeing.

Paul Chester, general manager at Huxley Golf, said: "This was an interesting project in terms of its design. The original

idea was to position the putting green on a hilly grassed area but, working in partnership with the management team, we concluded that the site was too steep.

"Our solution was to convert a disused bowls court. The result not only looks fantastic, but importantly, it is easy for all visitors to access, regardless of injury.

"We're extremely proud to have created a golf facility at three out of four Help for Heroes Recovery Centres."

# NEW

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## John Deere 1200H bunker rake

The Deere has introduced the 1200H hydro bunker rake to expand the 1200 range, to be available from the company's professional turf dealer network this spring.



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### 10-1 steering ratio and compact steering wheel

Allows extremely tight turns and easy handling

### Wide running boards

### Front-mounted blades

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### Three-wheel drive hydrostatic powertrain

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### Hydrostatic transmission

Provides pulling and pushing power to deliver a premium finish.



## Amazon pesticide ruling

The US Environmental Protection Agency has announced a \$1.2m settlement with Amazon over the sale and distribution of illegal pesticides, highlighting the potential consequences of failure to adhere with regulations around purchase.

Federal regulators said the agreement settles allegations that the Seattle-based internet giant committed nearly 4,000 violations between 2013 and 2016 for selling and distributing imported pesticide products not licensed for sale in the United States.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "This ruling shows that illegal sales and usage of pesticides is taken extremely seriously by the authorities. The consequences of purchasing and using banned substances can be costly, both for the club and for the greenkeeper who applies them."

In a statement, Amazon said complying with regulations was a "top priority" and that it works quickly to take action when third-party sellers don't follow the rules.

## European Turfgrass Society Conference

The European Turfgrass Society is preparing to welcome society members and other turfgrass specialists to the 6th ETS Conference in Manchester on 2-4 July.

The ETS organises its scientific turfgrass conference every two years, with Italy, France, Norway, Germany and Portugal each previous hosts of the event.

The organising committee with Dr Stewart Brown of University Centre Myerscough, as convener, is preparing the international congress under the theme 'different shades of green'. This is to represent the variety of sports surfaces and amenity facilities the industry encompasses.

Taking place at the Renaissance Manchester City Centre Hotel, the conferences provide an

opportunity for scientists, consultants, companies and practitioners to discuss technical issues related to the study of turfgrass. It is the society's ambition to provide a forum to spread innovative applications. For more information visit [www.turfgrasssociety.eu](http://www.turfgrasssociety.eu)



Dr Micah Woods will be speaking at the European Turfgrass Society Conference





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### How can I identify the different stages of Microdochium Patch on my greens?

Microdochium Patch is a leaf tissue disease that develops in five different stages, and the earlier you catch it, the better chance you have of minimising damage.

Stage one is invisible to the human eye, as it doesn't affect the grass plant, but the disease spores will be germinating.

Following this, very faint signs of stress with a light beige or orange colouring will come through the base of the plant.

This discoloration tends to occur under the canopy, so it can be tricky to see. However, this is the most important stage to spot, as the spread of disease can rapidly increase from here.

Stage three then sees natural progression of the patches, that start out roughly the size of a pound coin. They may begin to merge together, and the colour will become a deeper orange or brown, with a greasy appearance.

While these are still fairly small, it's likely that the golfer will start to notice patches of discoloured turf, before the mycelium, that looks like a white mould, starts to develop around the growing patches in the fourth stage.

The development then becomes more aggressive and the chlorophyll in the leaves will be lost, giving a deeper colour still. The greasy texture will be maintained through this period.

The fifth and final stage will see the turf bleached, with some die-back and a strong orange colouring around the outside of the patch. This creates an uneven surface which is unsightly and becomes a problem for golfers, as the depressions in the turf can negatively affect ball-roll.

However, as this is a disease of the leaf tissue, and not the plant crown or roots, when growing conditions are conducive, normally come spring, the turf can recover and regrow.

**Tweet us your turf questions @BIGGALtd using #AskDrMumford for your questions to be answered!**



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# THE MAGNIFICENT 10

## STUART ADAMS:

"As I sit here, a few days after returning from San Antonio, I look back and all I can do is smile. What a month that was. Harrogate included. But what stands out above the whole trip of a lifetime is how special the people that make greenkeeping are."

## JAMIE MARTIN:

"Everyone I spoke to who has been on the delegation said it is the trip of a lifetime and they were absolutely right, with so many educational and networking opportunities."



## CRAIG BERRY:

"I have heard a lot about this delegation in terms of education, networking and being an all-round busy week, but this trip took it to a whole new level of learning development."

## TOM SMITH:

"Third time lucky for me on winning a place in the magnificent 10, and wow was it worth it! The BIGGA team was brilliant, the Bernhard team was excellent, the Magnificent 10 were magnificent oh and the trip was pretty awesome too!"

## JAMES BONFIELD:

"I truly believe this is one of the greatest industries there is and I want to make sure I'm taking full advantage of everything it has to offer. I'm so glad I didn't give up after not getting on the trip first time of trying. This was one of the greatest experiences of my life."



**BERNHARD**



# THE EFFICIENT DELEGATION

**RICHARD JOHNSTONE:**

"The week was physically and mentally exhausting and it is hard to put into words just how incredible the delegation was."

**TOM JACQUES:**

"The whole trip from start to finish is a credit to the hard work, organisation and skill of the BIGGA and Bernhard teams and their willingness to invest time and money into greenkeeping and the wider golf industry."

**TIMOTHY LEWIS SETHI:**

"Without a doubt the week over in San Antonio was the single greatest week I've had in the 10 years I've been in this brilliant industry."

**DAVID WARNER:**

"This trip has helped me believe in myself and if I was to make it to be a course manager, I know with the support of BIGGA and the contacts I have made I am sure I will be a success."

**ANDY WHYMAN:**

"They say this trip will be a career-changing experience, and now I understand why!"

**T**he 10 BIGGA delegates rode into San Antonio for a show down at the Henry B Gonzalez Convention Centre, with the support of Bernhard Company.

It was a week to remember for the BIGGA members, who spent their week in Texas undertaking education, representing the association at the Golf Industry Show and fighting (karaoke) duels.

Over the next few pages they recall their adventures. And if you're inspired to get involved, don't forget applications for a place on the BIGGA Delegation 2019 will be opening soon.

Continued over



## BEFORE DEPARTURE

### CRAIG BERRY:

The preparation from BIGGA and Bernhard regarding the selection process, then on to the face to face interviews, to then all meeting at Harrogate, truly was a great build up, something I wish I could do all over again.

### STUART ADAMS:

I entered this process alongside strangers and left with nine fantastic friends for life. All corners of the UK were represented and a vast range of budgets, but one common career bound us together.

### TOM JACQUES:

I was, as most people would be, apprehensive and slightly nervous about spending over a week with nine strangers but I was immediately put at ease. The good nature, honesty and openness within the group was apparent from the off and by the end of the trip it was like we'd known each other for a lifetime.

### DAVID WARNER:

We were introduced to the course manager, Deven Baughn. He showed us around his facility, explaining the running of his course and the issues he faces with the heat, effluent water and staffing.

### JAMIE MARTIN:

Sunday really was a Carlsberg day. Deven welcomed us with open arms and was more than happy to answer any questions and took a keen interest in our roles. Boot Ranch is very much a private members' resort and it was absolutely fascinating to see all of the magnificent facilities enjoyed by the greens staff and learning about their maintenance regimes.

## BOOT RANCH GOLF CLUB, TEXAS

We were showed the clubhouse and had a tour of the locker room that was more like a lobby in a 5-star hotel. To top it all off we realised we were even allocated a locker with our own name on it, just a few rows on from a certain George W. Bush!

### STUART ADAMS:

A tour around the sheds and grounds led me to believe the possibility of even putting a golf course on the moon with the right amount of money.



Above left: Waiting for the coach to the seminar on gadgets and gizmos by James Bonfield

Above right: Brown fairways at Boot Ranch by Timothy Lewis Sethi

Above: Waterfall at Boot Ranch by David Warner



## THE SUPERBOWL

### JAMIE MARTIN:

Following our game of golf on one of the best courses I've ever played we headed out to watch the Super Bowl. It was great to witness this sporting event while being in the States, but give me the cup final any day!

### STUART ADAMS:

The group were beginning to bond and a few nights out saw the Magnificent Ten grow, and not only due to the meal size. Tommy Smith had everyone in fits of laughter with his sense of humour, yet confused the hell out of our American cousins.

BIGGA Delegation with BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins MG, Rhett Evans, GSCAA CEO and Darren J Davis, president of the GCSAA



## EDUCATION AT THE GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

### ANDY WHYMAN:

The next two days were education days and for the first time we were allowed to pick our own. These two days were very productive and gave us the chance to network with superintendents from around the world. What stood out most to me was how in the UK and Europe we have had a lot of chemicals taken off the market and in the States these products are still going strong. The other main difference was budgets, and it's not marginal differences, it's quite a difference.

### CRAIG BERRY:

I had several conversations with superintendents regarding fungicide use and comparing them. They were well aware of our fungicide restrictions but I was blown away myself with their twice-a-week applications and how aggressive their practices are in keeping fine turf surfaces. Astonishing!

### JAMES BONFIELD:

On the second day of seminars myself and five of the other delegates opted for the 'gadgets and gizmos' seminar. This talked about all the technology available to us as an industry, from apps to drones. There is so much tech available to us and I don't think we are making the most out of it, but it will be a big part of future greenkeeping and if we can utilise all the data available from the tech properly then maybe it'll really be an essential part of our future.

### DAVID WARNER:

I found the superintendents and speakers in America very professional in both their attitude and the way they presented themselves, they were always dressed well and had time to speak to everyone. This level of professionalism has made me see how we are perceived at our own clubs. As professional people we need to improve this, but with the help of BIGGA we are on the right path, this will just take time.

## RECEPTIONS

### TIMOTHY LEWIS SETHI:

The evening receptions were just as important as the days spent at the show. I've made so many new contacts around the world from this trip and I now have many avenues to explore in the future.

### RICHARD JOHNSTONE:

A chance meeting with Bethpage Director of Golf Andrew Wilson has led to me playing a part in tournament preparations for the USPGA Championship in 2019 and is a perfect example of how networking plays a huge role of career development within our industry



BIGGA Delegation with Bernhards

Continued over



**DAVID WARNER:**

This was amazing, we were invited to this event and everyone in our group had the chance to meet likeminded people. There were course managers and greenkeepers from all over the world to network with and it was a real enjoyable atmosphere.

# JACOBSEN AFTER-SHOW PARTY

**ANDY WHYMAN:**

The next two days were show days, when we all did stints on the BIGGA stand, which was a great chance to meet people from around the UK as they popped on the stand to say hello.

**JAMIE MARTIN:**

Not surprisingly the exhibition hall was massive, BTME on steroids! I was amazed by the amount of people who visited us on the stand and it was great to chat to not only American greenkeepers but many British greenkeepers. Walking round the show I met so many people from all over the world such as Australia, Thailand, Dubai, North America and of course Scotland.

**CRAIG BERRY:**

Wednesday saw me pick up the #GCITWEETUP18 Best Overall Use of Social Media award on behalf of St. Andrews Links. This is great for the links because there is so much passion for the industry that promoting what we do becomes second nature. Being recognised and awarded for this gives us more of an incentive to keep doing what we are doing.

**STUART ADAMS:**

I met the very first U.S Master Greenkeeper Bill Montague, which was quite humbling.

**JAMES BONFIELD:**

Most people had an interest in what was happening in our industry over here in regard to chemicals being taken off the market. I found in some instances I surprised myself at how I was able to answer their questions and give them all the information they were looking

# GCSAA AND NGCOA GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

for, I genuinely gained a lot of confidence in my own abilities while working the stand. Everywhere we went, people would know who we were and why we were there, so that gives you some idea of how big the trip has become.

**RICHARD JOHNSTONE:**

On Wednesday afternoon I was lucky enough to be presented with the GCI/Aquatrols Best Golf Course Blog 2018 and felt privileged to have been recognised amongst some top social media users within the industry.

**TOM SMITH:**

The show was brilliant and I was awestruck at how big it was, I was so taken in I joined the GCSAA and look forward to revisiting next year!

**TOM JACQUES:**

The industry show itself is huge and takes a good couple of days to get around everything. I made sure I went out of my comfort zone to talk to industry experts and course managers alike in order to glean some insight about what is required to progress my career further. I continue to be amazed and also proud of the industry's openness to help others regardless of what standard of course you work at.



# OAK HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

**RICHARD JOHNSTONE:**

Oak Hills is one of the most respected private member-owned country clubs in the country and has hosted 34 PGA and USGA Tour events since 1922. Superintendent Riley Maxey explained how a recent restoration project had taken place with Zoysia Grass used on most surfaces which will require less fertiliser, less maintenance and recovers faster from drought conditions.

**JAMES BONFIELD:**

The first thing that hit me about each place we visited was the size of the areas the courses are set in. Oak Hills was not as vast as the other two but still big for what they think is a tight course! There are a lot of resources available to these courses and all of them had teams of over 15. There's always something to gain from these visits and the one thing that linked them all was that planning was key to each of them. The greater the budget, the better the planning needed to be.





## TPC SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

BIGGA Delegation on the Bernhard Company Stand at the Golf Industry Show

### JAMIE MARTIN:

We then went on to TPC San Antonio to have a tour of their maintenance facility, which looked more like a John Deere factory than a greenkeeper's shed.

### RICHARD JOHNSTONE:

TPC San Antonio is a golf resort in the Cibolo Canyons area north of San Antonio. The course opened in February 2010 and has also played host to the Valero Texas Open since 2010.

### DAVID WARNER:

Playing the course really highlighted the different grass types we use here in the UK. The warm season Bermudagrass they use plays completely different. The chip and run shot we use over here is made more difficult as the grass grabs the ball, which slows it down around the greens.

### CRAIG BERRY:

The chance to have a chat with the superintendents about their courses was a great insight and discussing their infrastructures and financial forward planning were a massive eye opener to all of the delegates.

Richard Johnstone with his award

**JACOBSEN**  
Magnificent Ten  
illustration courtesy of  
Jacobsen

## IN SUMMARY

### DAVID WARNER:

I have found in the past months, the more you put yourself out there, the more opportunities you will be given. With the support of BIGGA, I have left my comfort zone. I have worked at the British Masters at Close House, attended education and golf days with BIGGA and was selected to be part of The Magnificent Ten. I will be spreading the word to my colleagues, there are opportunities and support if you want it.

### ANDY WHYMAN:

The difference between the UK and US, apart from budgets and banned products, is the fact they seem to carry out little deep aeration, which really surprised me. The course visits to the maintenance facilities were exceptional and the setup of the spraying sheds at TPC San Antonio was something which I will probably never see in the UK.

### CRAIG BERRY:

I have been researching quotes and this definitely represents The Magnificent Ten: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress and working together is success". I think there has been some good relationships built from this experience, so much so, we are currently in the process of arranging another get together.

### JAMIE MARTIN:

The hospitality that was extended to us from Bernhard's, BIGGA and everyone involved in GIS was at times overwhelming. Our golf trips were fantastic and memories of our social nights will live forever. However, what I will take most from my trip, is making nine friends for life.

### STUART ADAMS:

Further thanks need to go to Stephen Bernhard for this trip of a life time, Steven Nixon, Kim Furnell and the team for being the perfect hosts and a genuine credit to the company, and to

the BIGGA team for putting this all together. Apply — It will change your life.

### TIMOTHY LEWIS SETHI:

The week was physically and mentally demanding, we managed to squeeze so much into those seven days. With BTME being only a couple weeks prior to GIS, it was great to compare the two shows. The sheer size of GIS is impressive. The education days were insightful and invaluable to see how the industry in the States differ from our own.

### JAMES BONFIELD:

The best part about the whole trip was the nine other guys I went with, such a great group. We spent the whole week as one big group, we had a lot of fun to go along with the hard work that the trip is.

### RICHARD JOHNSTONE:

I have taken so much away from the delegation, which will help me improve professionally and personally. It is something I will never forget and I strongly recommend anyone to apply for a place next year.

### TOM SMITH:

Travelling to America has always been a dream of mine and being able to combine this with my passion for greenkeeping was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

We also had some unforgettable down time, visiting The Alamo, eating authentic Tex Mex, shopping, chatting with the locals and forging new friendships with nine of the best men I could have wanted to travel with.

### TOM JACQUES:

One of the biggest surprises for me was in how much regard each of the delegation was held by other industry professionals. This shows how important the delegation is and how beneficial it can be for one's career.





# Does your club have a tree management plan?

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

**T**rees can form the entire identity of a golf course. From the Big Tree Country of Gleneagles to the pine, silver birch and sweet chestnut of Woburn, trees help shape holes and define a course.

They are much-loved by members, who watch them grow over the years and lend an emotional attachment to particularly charismatic and noticeable specimens.

But even Augusta National's Eisenhower Tree wasn't impervious to the ravages of time, as the club's tree management plan indicated that the famous pine had to go.

It's an emotional subject, and one that's caused many conflicts between golfers and their greenkeeping teams over the years.

How then do you decide what trees to keep, and what must go? How do you maintain a successful, ecologically diverse habitat around your woodland? And how, if you do decide the time is up for a popular course fixture, do you justify it to the membership?

At Chester-Le-Street, a Sandy Herd and Ted Ray design dating

back to 1908, the team have spent their careers — particularly the past 20 years — watching areas of woodland grow around the course.

**So why, over the past few years, have they chosen to chop thousands of trees down?**

Club Secretary Colin Henderson explained: "The course was established in 1908 and has evolved constantly since then, without a set plan. You can imagine how many different ideas have come and gone in that time.

"For example, we had pink cherry trees, which were good for seven days a year, but the rest of the time were quite gnarly and weren't in keeping with the natural landscape. Everything about them was obnoxious and every year they got smaller, not bigger. You have to remember, this is a golf course, not a garden.

"We want the golf course to fit in with the rest of the landscape. From the town up to the castle on the grounds of the golf course, there's an avenue of lime trees, and we wanted to fit in with that."

Out of a desire to progress in a highly-competitive area, the club enlisted the help of John Nicholson, Ken Moodie, and former Ryder Cup player Ken Brown to draw up a course improvement document, within which was detailed a tree management plan.

## Engage with the members

Top Tip

"The people who objected, I said to them one day, have you read the plan? The answer was no, we don't need to read the plan, we don't agree with it. But you have got to get the balance right, both politically and culturally, and we hosted a number of presentations with the members, to inform them about what was taking place. I would say that 95 per cent of the membership are now in favour of the changes."

John Nicholson





And it is a tree management plan, said arboriculturist John Nicholson, that every course in the country should be looking to invest in producing their own version.

"We have 600 members at Chester-Le-Street, and that means there are 600 course architects out there, who all have their own opinions on how the course should look," said Head Greenkeeper Barry Lee. "Every time someone comes on the committee, they want to adjust the course in their own way. But as we have a plan, drawn up by a team of experts, we are able to stick to it over the long term. It has led to some robust discussions, but we are able to justify what's taking place."

Prior to 1998, when John was first brought in to plant 10,775 mixed broadleaves in an attempt to define

a set of new holes that were under construction, the approach to tree management on the course was much more slapdash, leading to some unusual results.

Aesthetics weren't the only reason for taking a pro-active approach to tree management, and the impact upon the course from a greens maintenance and an ecological point of view are arguably much more important.

"In my career I've been called a vandal, a delinquent, a murderer," explained John. "But what people don't realise is that by cutting down certain trees, you're actually increasing the biodiversity of an area. Non-intervention management, where you leave the trees and foliage to do their own thing — and that's what happened

### Complete as much work as you can during summer

Top Tip

You must be aware of restrictions in place due to nesting birds, but completing work during summer allows you to take advantage of firm ground, causing less damage. Undertake the work during summer, when the ground's firm so you are doing little damage. The disadvantage is that the trees are in leaf so you get more mess, and it's during the golf season, but with the longer days, you can also achieve much more in a shorter time."

John Nicholson

These before and after images show effective tree clearance on the 9th hole, opening views of Lumley Castle

here at Chester-Le-Street between 1998 and 2016 — doesn't encourage diversity, it actually smothers it.

Continued over





## Keep on top of things, and stick to the plan

### Top Tip

"It's a very emotive subject, but the momentum needs to be kept up and we need to see it through to the end. This area is extremely competitive for golf, but we've seen a decrease in the number of people leaving or deferring their membership, so we are just starting to see the fruits of our hard work. The last few years we've been sailing into very strong headwinds, but we are hopefully going to get through it."

John Nicholson

"If all your trees are of the same age, and there's a closed canopy, you get no regeneration. By scalloping the edges of the woodland you increase diversity and landscape diversity

So by chopping down trees, the ecological value of the estate has actually improved.

But how has it impacted the greenkeepers?

"As the trees got bigger, it was causing work," said Barry. "I spent my life managing trees as they interrupted wind, which dried out the greens, and caused shade.

"This is the first time we have worked with proper architects and shapers and you can tell these people do it for a living. My staff has really bought into it."

"One of the things John said was that trees are heliotropic, they grow towards the light, and can grow four feet a year upwards and outwards. The greenkeepers come along, cutting the grass, and the trees start encroaching on to the hole, and all the rubbish grass that you don't want follows them. Inside the copse becomes a wasteland, and if we don't do something soon, we won't have a golf course left. It's a bit extreme, but it makes sense."

With less trees, mowing around the individual specimens is easier. And when you consider that a single oak tree has approximately 750,000 leaves on it, the amount of time spent clearing them in autumn has been drastically reduced.

Better air circulation and less shade reduce the threat from turf disease, which are activated by humidity.

In total, around 300 tonnes of timber were removed from the site. The question could be asked about why John planted so many trees in the first place, back in 1998.

The explanation, according to John, is simple: "If you grow a commercial

forest, and then fell it after 40 years, you will only be felling around 30 per cent of those trees, because the other 70 per cent will already have been removed. You plant too many trees because it forces them to grow upwards to battle for light. If you plant trees sparsely, they grow in all directions, with branches reaching out everywhere, and that isn't a good form for a golf course. Keep them tightly packed and the branches will be higher up, making them easier to mow and play around."

The initial reservations of Chester-Le-Street's membership have largely been allayed following the work. Rather than reducing the character of the course, it has opened up some spectacular views, increasing the attractiveness of the course. The removal of a line of poplars on the third hole has opened up views of the River Wear, while other removals have opened up views of Lumley Castle, which sits at the centre of the estate.

Strategically, most of the trees were planted to tighten up a hole or force a dogleg, in contrast to the architects' original vision. Trees flatten the landscape, hiding

The Chester-Le-Street greenkeeping team with John Nicholson (second left)







undulations on the ground, and when they hide the green, it reduces the visual and strategic interest of a hole, explains John.

"Whenever we do tree work, the criticism is that we are making the course easier," he added. "Yet the scores on the 10th hole actually went up because people try shots they are not capable of, because they think it's easy.

"What we've managed to achieve is less trees, but the ones that remain are of better quality. Some of the spectacular trees that were left behind, we had never noticed before. You literally couldn't see the wood for the trees."

#### Tips on drawing up a tree management plan

1. Identify your aims and objectives
2. Map and measure the areas of woodland on the course
3. Search as to what designations exist, such as Tree Protection Order, conservation area, SSSI
4. Ensure you have a felling licence if necessary
5. Get advice from an experienced and qualified woodland manager.

#### Let the professionals do the hard work

"Felling a tree takes 30 seconds. It's the clearing up that takes time. Professional foresters will sned off all the branches, which is the process of stripping the side shoots from the length of a branch. A good forester can do it quickly, but the greens team haven't that expertise.

"The efficiency of the whole project with someone that's experienced is 10 times better. Whereas, if the greens staff are doing it, they are not completing other duties on the course."

John Nicholson

Top Tip

# Out in front

## Forefront Greens – two species, one great mix for forward thinking greenkeepers

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# Chemical Updates

Getting the best from pesticide applications, staying within the law and best practice

**We** all talk about the loss of active ingredients to help us manage our turf areas. It is certainly true that the number of options has decreased and will continue to do so.

We now need to focus on getting the best from the products we can use. To achieve this, we need to go back to some basic principles and ask a few questions of ourselves.

- Do we remember all the changes in legislation, products and equipment since taking our Certificate of Competence?
- Have you attended any update training sessions or self study on pesticide application?
- What are we trying to achieve when we get the sprayer out to use?
- Have we considered all the alternative means of control, such as Integrated Pest Management?

## Why do we need a sprayer?

The reason we need a boom sprayer, hand lance or knapsack is that it is a convenient way to spread the active ingredient (product) we want to apply. This may seem basic, but the objective is to apply the correct amount of active ingredient to a given area.

**To achieve this, we need to have a number of pieces of information**

**Application rate of the formulated product** — this can be found on the label and it will be specified in litres or grams/kgs per hectare of the product to be applied.

### Example:

A product requires six litres per Ha, which equals 6,000ml of product per 10,000m<sup>2</sup> or 6ml of product per 10m<sup>2</sup>. This equals 0.6ml of product per square metre

We want to treat an area which is 3,500m<sup>2</sup> so how much product do we need?

0.6 ml times 3,500 = 2,100ml of product or 2.1 litres

Many products have multiple rates depending on use or 'crop' being treated. In golf we probably don't think about crops, but these are used in pesticide registrations to differentiate between different areas. For golf courses we do in fact have a very wide range of different 'crops'.

**How many crops\* do you have on your golf course?**

*\*As defined by pesticide crop hierarchy*

## EXAMPLES OF 'CROPS ON A GOLF COURSE

**Managed amenity turf** — greens, tees, fairways

**Amenity grassland** — roughs (unless grazed by livestock)

**Grassland** — grass grazed by livestock

**Amenity vegetation** — areas among shrubs, trees, scrub beds, sown flower areas

**Permeable surfaces overlying soil** — pathways, gravel car parks

**Hard surfaces** — impermeable surfaces, asphalt, concrete, paving

**Wood surfaces** — decking, wooden furniture, wooden structures

**Forest and wooded area** — predominately trees

**Tree** — specimen trees in grass

**Natural vegetation** — conservation areas with little to zero management

**Hedgerows** — hedges on boundaries

**Open waters** — natural or artificial body of water draining to water course

**Enclosed waters** — natural or artificial body of water not draining to water course

**Land immediately adjacent to aquatic area** — areas around ponds, streams, ditches

**Interior landscapes** — indoor plants



Products must be registered for the intended use area 'crop', so check the product label that the area 'crop' you are treating is on the label. If not, ask a trained advisor or look up the details on the HSE **Plant Protection Products with Authorisation for use in the UK** database, which lists all products, the authorisation of these products in the UK and can be found by following the link below:

[secure.pesticides.gov.uk/pestreg/ProdSearch.asp](https://secure.pesticides.gov.uk/pestreg/ProdSearch.asp)

The CRD crop hierarchy was updated in 2017 – to download the latest version follow the link below:

[www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/resources/C/Crop-defn.pdf](https://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/resources/C/Crop-defn.pdf)

## Product Application

Once we have determined the dose of the product and legality in use, the next decision is how and when to apply the product. What are the main factors to consider?

Weather — wind, temperature (air, soil, grass), humidity, rainfall, sun and solar intensity. These all have different impacts

### Wind:

**Potential drift** if wind speeds are too high or intermittent. This will move spray away from the target with potential negative impacts.

**Very still conditions** can also impact on spray deposition


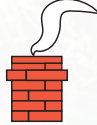



**Wind speed** should be measured at boom height

Do not spray with wind speeds greater than 6 miles/hr

Engineering controls can be used to help increase number of spray days — using shrouded booms significantly reduces drift and allows operators to manage droplet spectrum to optimise performance

### Wind speed:

Wind speed at boom height			Guide for using a standard amenity sprayer, knapsack or hand lance
m/s	km/h	miles/h	
<0.6	<2	<1.2	Use only medium or coarse spray quality
0.6 – 0.9	2 – 3.2	1.2 – 2	Acceptable spraying conditions
0.9 – 1.8	3.2 – 6.5	2 – 4	Ideal spraying conditions
1.8 – 2.7	6.5 – 9.6	4 – 6	Increased risk of spray drift. Avoid spraying herbicides and take special care with other pesticides
>2.7	>9.6	>6	Do not spray

Approximate air speed at bottom height*	Beaufort Scale	Description	Visible Signs		Spraying
Less than 2km/h (less than 1.2mph)	Force 0	Calm		Smoke rises vertically.	Only use medium or coarse spray quality.
2 – 3.2km/h (1.2 – 2mph)	Force 1	Light air		Direction shown by smoke drift.	Acceptable spraying conditions.
3.2 – 6.5km/h (2 – 4mph)	Force 2	Light breeze		Leaves rustle, wind felt on face.	Ideal spraying conditions.
6.5 – 9.6km/h (4 – 6mph)	Force 3	Gentle breeze		Leaves and twigs in constant motion.	Increased risk of spray drift. Take special care.
9.6 – 14.5km/h (6 – 9mph)	Force 4	Moderate		Small branches moved, raises dust or loose paper.	Spraying inadvisable.

Wind speed at typical boom heights is lower than Beaufort speeds which are measured at 10 metres

### Measure of Wind Speed

Droplet spectrum is affected by

- Nozzle type,
- Spray pressure,
- Forward speed,
- Spray additives to change viscosity
















The chart over the page shows visually the distribution pattern of different spray qualities at different water rates. A similar effect can be created using the same water rate, but different spray pressure or different nozzles.

Experience in recent years has shown that for most products, optimum efficacy can be obtained with larger droplets than used to be taught. Medium to coarse droplets reduce drift and show better deposition on turf surfaces.

The other factors affecting spray performance such as state of target, spraying speed, pressure, accuracy of application, product deposition, tank mixing will be covered in future articles.

BASIS have put together a syllabus and one day training programme covering all the areas relating to updating your knowledge of use of pesticides and spraying effectively.



	125 L/ha	85 L/ha	45 L/ha
Fine			
Medium			
Coarse			
Very Coarse			
Extra Coarse			

Attendance and passing the multiple choice questionnaire for this course will qualify for CPD points under the BASIS Amenity Training Register and BIGGA's CPD scheme.

A preview of this syllabus will be included at the upcoming update events being hosted by the Amenity Forum and BIGGA on 27 March at BIGGA HQ and 29 March at Cold Ashby Golf Club.

It will also feature in all the other Amenity Forum update events around the country this year.

## Legislation

Under the sustainable use directive, the greenkeeper must be suitably qualified to use professional pesticides i.e. holds a certificate of competence in pesticide use and application. The law states:

Anyone who applies pesticides as part of their professional activities must (including those previously operating under grandfather rights) hold a recognised training certificate summary below:

1. Completion of a City and Guilds PA1 Foundation Unit, Lantra Level 2 award in the safe use of pesticides foundation unit, Certificate of competence in use of pesticides issued by the Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs or Scottish Skills Testing service
2. Lantra - Level 2 Award in Safe Use of Pesticides Replacing Grandfather Rights

### Followed by the necessary operator award

1. City and Guilds operator award PA2 - PA13
2. Lantra - Level 2 award in the safe application of pesticides different modules

**Don't miss the update events hosted by the Amenity Forum and BIGGA**

27 March at BIGGA HQ  
and 29 March at Cold Ashby Golf Club.





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# Martin Slumbers

**“We are committed to the strong relationship between our two organisations”**

Martin Slumbers

**T**he R&A chief executive talked to Greenkeeper International about his ambitions for the future and how greenkeepers play an important role in the success of the sport.

**Not every greenkeeper is familiar with your background. Could you introduce yourself to BIGGA members?**

I spent much of my career outside the golf business in the banking industry. Like millions of others, I loved playing the game and enjoyed my club life. When the chance came to interview for the chief executive role I wholeheartedly committed myself to preparing for the interview process.

I was delighted and honoured to be offered the role and I have spent the last three years working with many talented and committed people who share the same passion for the game and want to see The R&A driving our sport forward for the benefit of millions of golfers for many years to come.

I am very passionate about golf and this role is my opportunity to start giving back to the game and provide support. I also believe that The Open is one of the world's greatest sporting events and I found that the opportunity to move it forward proved irresistible.

I have always been someone who tries to look forward and be ambitious about driving change. I long ago bought into the notion that if you do not constantly change or look to evolve the world will pass you by. I think that golf has had many wonderful successes, but the sport needs to become more relevant to today's society. I want to ensure that the work we do moves the sport forward in a positive direction.

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‘I am very passionate about golf and this role is my opportunity to start giving back to the game and provide support.’

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**Continued over**





Martin Slumbers

Image courtesy of  
The R&A






### What are The R&A's key priorities for supporting and growing the game over the next couple of decades?

Our goal is to ensure that golf is thriving as a sport in 50 years' time and many of the initiatives we are driving forward are focussed on making golf more modern, more accessible and more enjoyable so that it is relevant to today's society. We have committed to growing our investment in the sport to £200m over the next 10 years which will support our activities across sustainability, rules governance, amateur golf and golf development.

One of our priorities is to advocate and support the use of sustainable management practices by golf facilities and ensure that they are given the recognition they deserve

for the great progress made in recent years. We continue to work closely with the GEO Foundation to support their sustainability agenda and to encourage golf facilities to undertake the GEO Certification process.

'GreenLinks', The Open's sustainability programme, has been in operation for three years now and demonstrates our commitment to proactively addressing this issue. Its overall aim is to enhance the environmental and social benefits of staging the Championship each year and encourages nature conservation, supporting local communities, use of ethical suppliers, efficient waste management and sustainable energy considerations.

 Henrik Stenson returns the Claret Jug to Martin Slumbers ahead of the 146th Open at Royal Birkdale. Image by Warren Little/The R&A/Getty Images

### BIGGA's members play a critical role in providing surfaces for the game to be played on at all levels. How engaged in this area of the industry is The R&A?

The R&A is very engaged in encouraging the continuing maintenance and preservation of golf courses around the world. We have a long history in this regard including the establishment of STRI in 1929 and the formation of committees and panels over the years which were constituted to focus on greenkeeping and golf course management.

The R&A's sustainability department plays an active role in addressing the issues faced by greenkeepers and undertakes valuable work in this area. We are very supportive of education programmes for greenkeepers, including our own greenkeeping scholars programme which provides vital opportunities for individuals to learn from experienced greenkeeping teams and be involved in managing and maintaining a course during tournament conditions.

We also work closely with STRI and support the development of tools to objectively measure key aspects of turf performance for golf, including firmness, trueness and smoothness.

In terms of The Open we have very close working relationships with the clubs at each venue and are in regular dialogue with them to ensure that the course is presented in the best possible condition for the Championship.

We will also be running 23 amateur events in 2018 and our amateur events team liaise with the clubs and their greenkeeping staff to discuss course set-up and maintenance both before and during each event. It is important that we provide the world's best amateur golfers with a golf course that challenges their talents and greenkeepers are important in helping to achieve that outcome.





**An ongoing aim of BIGGA has been to give our members a voice at the highest levels within the game of golf. In your experience, has BIGGA been able to achieve that goal?**

We have always considered BIGGA to be a key stakeholder of The R&A and it has been actively involved in our golf course management and sustainability programmes for some time now. Our sustainability department

engages in regular meetings with BIGGA to maintain this strong relationship and to discuss issues affecting the industry sector and devise innovative solutions.

BIGGA also attends the Golf Forum in Great Britain and Ireland and we welcome the expertise and experience that BIGGA and its members can contribute to addressing important issues affecting the game of golf.

**What do you consider to be the key areas of challenge for the greenkeeping industry?**

There are three challenges that I would consider to be most important for the greenkeeping industry to meet and address. We are seeing golf courses being more affected by trends linked to climate change including increasing rainfall and more instances of extreme weather events. For example, there are periods of course closures with disruption affecting golfers, club competitions and amateur and professional tournaments, even in the summer months. Course managers need to demonstrate adaptation to these changes if we are to ensure that golf facilities are presented in the best possible condition for golfers.

We also need to be cognisant of the availability and use of resources in golf course management and maintenance of facilities. Golf facilities have a duty

to demonstrate that they are using sustainable management practices in use of resources which are advocated and approved by the likes of the GEO Foundation and I would absolutely encourage golf course managers and greenkeepers to work with the GEO Foundation and utilise its OnCourse sustainability certification process. We also have to recognise that some resources may become scarce and that the industry adapts to look at alternative solutions before scarcity adversely impacts on golf courses.

Government regulations may also impact the practices of golf course managers and greenkeepers, particularly around the use of resources for golf course maintenance including water, pesticides, treatment agents and more. As I mentioned earlier, it is our duty to demonstrate to governments that the golf industry is using the most advanced practices in sustainability of golf facilities.

**‘We are strong advocates of education and we encourage all BIGGA members to take advantage of the many opportunities now available to them...’**

**How can BIGGA members help support The R&A as it looks to achieve its own goals?**

We are working on a number of sustainability initiatives as part of a broad agenda and they require the involvement and support of the greenkeeping profession to help achieve our goals and encourage the implementation of best practice on the ground.

We are strong advocates of education and we encourage all BIGGA members to take advantage of the many opportunities now available to them, including our own greenkeeping scholars programme. A well-educated workforce on the ground is essential if the golf course management sector is going to meet the challenges I outlined above.

Continued over

**‘We welcome the expertise and experience that BIGGA and its members can contribute to addressing important issues...’**

20/20/30 tank mix

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### How involved is The R&A in the set-up of the course for The Open?

The Open is one of the world's greatest sporting events and one of the reasons that the Championship is so special in the eyes of millions of golf fans is the spectacle of the game's most talented players pitting their talents against links courses which are revered around the world for their beauty and the tough, but fair test they pose to golfers.

Therefore, it is important that we get the set-up of the course right in the lead up to and during the Championship. A crucial factor in achievement of that aim is the strong relationship we build and maintain between our staff, the host club and its greenkeeping staff. We have established target ranges for speed, firmness, smoothness and trueness for all the courses included in the pool for The Open. During the multi-year build up to a Championship we work with the club and STRI to make sure we are going to

be within the targeted ranges. The greenkeeping staff do a tremendous job of preparing a course fit to host a major championship and every year we are left in awe of their talents. I know that the players are always very complimentary of the efforts and commitment of the greenkeeping staff.

Another important consideration in the set-up of the course is the infrastructure which is installed at each venue. The Open has grown to become a huge operation and we work with many suppliers to ensure that we present the Championship to the highest standard. This includes our spectator seating, wi-fi connectivity on course for spectators, hospitality, catering, the spectator village, transport and parking, media centre and player services. Our aim is to achieve this in the most sustainable manner possible and as I mentioned earlier, our 'GreenLinks' programme ensures that we are working with the best interests of the local environment and communities in mind.



**A big challenge for BIGGA is educating golfers and employers on the challenges greenkeepers face in light of increasing expectations and often reducing budgets. How can the R&A assist in this area?**

The R&A can certainly play a role in shining a spotlight on the challenging issues that the golf industry faces. By encouraging all stakeholders to be aware of the pressures that greenkeepers face in meeting what may become increasingly unrealistic expectations from both those who operate and use golf facilities.

We are currently working on a new initiative entitled Golf Course 2030, which is a forward-thinking programme which will involve key stakeholders in performing a gap analysis and identifying technological innovations which can help course managers and greenkeepers adapt to the challenges we face. This relates to the challenges of climate change, use of resources and government regulations referred to earlier. Whilst we all hope that new technologies, innovation and adaptation can maintain standards of course condition over the next

Martin Slumbers hits an approach during a pro-am round prior to the Ricoh Women's British Open at Kingsbarns Golf Links. Photo by David Cannon/The R&A/Getty Images





‘The R&A can certainly play a role in shining a spotlight on the challenging issues that the golf industry faces. By encouraging all stakeholders to be aware of the pressures that greenkeepers face in meeting what may become increasingly unrealistic expectations...’

decade, and beyond, preparing the industry and golfers for change if affordable solutions cannot be found is one of the objectives of this initiative, as is emphasising the key role that greenkeepers will have to play if an acceptable standard of surface is to be preserved. We are working closely with BIGGA on this initiative, and

others such as the home governing bodies, STRI and GEO Foundation. More will be revealed in coming months.

We applaud BIGGA's latest initiative to educate golfers and employers through the publication of 'Your Course' and we will be working with BIGGA to continue this process.

#### What are your thoughts on the importance of modern, effective governance of golf clubs?

As I've mentioned, I am a strong advocate of golf clubs adapting to the demands of modern society and this includes the operation and management of their facilities.

We believe that the quality of the golf course will largely be determined by those given responsibility to manage it and direction

as to what the club and its course must provide to attract and retain members is essential.

Clubs must also have access to the resources, in terms of staff, materials and machinery, which will be required to achieve the best possible outcomes for the facility. To develop greater sustainability in golf facilities clubs will need to employ individuals who are most qualified and skilled to deliver this.

#### How did you find presenting at the BIGGA Scottish Conference within the theme of 'everyone working together for the good of the game'?

I was delighted to present at the conference and share our ideas with members of BIGGA. It's important for golf's stakeholders to work together to preserve the future of golf and ensure that it is thriving in 50 years' time.

That means meeting and addressing the issues which affect golf courses and the greenkeeping industry. I hope that the attendees went away knowing that The R&A considers issues of sustainability and golf course management integral to our governance of the sport around the world and that we are committed to maintaining the strong relationship which exists between the two organisations.



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# Why you should expect

# MORE



Reesink Turfcare

## Reesink Turfcare considers the role of a distributor

**The role and responsibilities of a course manager are constantly changing, diversifying and becoming more complex.**

The increased use of technology, environmental pressures, health and safety, tighter budget control and people management responsibilities have all played a part in expanding the job. And that's without the club's long-term expectations from members and management.

David Cole, managing director of Reesink Turfcare, tells us how the company, which distributes Toro fine turf, irrigation and groundscape products, Otterbine lake and pond aerators, plus TYM compact tractors in the UK, has responded to this.



As the industry moves forward and job responsibilities evolve, so has the role of distributor. We've responded to that by focusing on how easy it is to do business with us and how in turn we make life easier for our customers, all the while thinking what else can we be doing?

The answer we've come to is, by offering more in every way. More products, more range, more options. More help, advice and guidance. More training and support. More ways to buy. Adding more value.

It wasn't rocket science, we simply needed to change our view on what we as a turfcare machinery and equipment distributor exist for.

### A range of products that do more

An over-used slogan maybe, but we want to be a one-stop shop for all of our customers' needs.

As a distributor you bring to market the products you think will bring the most benefit to your customers. All our product divisions represent brands we consider to be among the very best in the marketplace to do that.

Toro, of course, is well known for its global market leadership as a manufacturer of innovative products. Its approach to new product development is widely considered to be second-to-none and its success in identifying emerging trends within the turfcare market is directly linked to the way it takes the time to go out into the field to meet Toro and non-Toro users.

Working together with our partners





Work with customer groups has led to the development of revolutionary new products, like the Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinder, and new technologies like the electric-powered Greensmaster eFlex 21, the industry's first lithium-ion battery-driven greensmower. Not to mention Toro's hybrid technology. With increasing interest in the industry to reduce carbon footprints, the Reelmaster 5010-H is powered by Toro's PowerMatch technology and its drive system couples the power from a 24.8hp diesel engine to a self-charging 48-volt battery pack.

We've used many words to describe Toro's innovative product range over the years — durable, versatile, productive, efficient, the list goes on. But one that is continually evident is economy, bringing with it added value.

It's an ethos that applies to TYM tractors, and Otterbine too.

## You need more support, backup and advice, not less

The customer should be at the centre of all you do and you must work to achieve the best solution for them. We're focussed on the way we communicate with our customers, and the way we deal with customer support. It's why there has been solid investment in our service centres, now in Scotland, the South

East of England and East Anglia, and why we work closely with our network of Authorised Service and Dealer Locations (ASL) to develop new joint initiatives such as our Service Level Agreement (SLA) which benchmarks great customer service.

We're looking to continually improve our customer experience after a sale completes, and our SLA outlines the core customer service standards, goals and considerations adopted by all our ASLs, which helps to earn the loyalty of our customers.

They incorporate common goals and values that are the baseline for supporting our commercial turf product customers and set high standards for servicing, repairs and warranty, and the spare parts supply process.

## Make more training available

Our ambition is to continuously improve standards in the industry. We have a dedicated team, and in partnership with Toro, we have created and developed the biggest range of vocational training for land-based disciplines in the industry.

To date we have nine courses for turf professionals providing training that caters not just to the novice, but the more experienced, too. We work with the approved bodies LANTRA and City and Guilds,



and have also developed a Master Service Technician programme to provide a strategic career pathway for technicians within the dealer, service centre and Reesink workshop locations.

## More helpful ways to finance

Finance on turfcare machinery has been something golf clubs have been taking advantage of for years. However, we realised there was more we could do for golf clubs, especially during periods of unclear economic forecasts.

In 2017 we developed an irrigation finance product, an industry first for full installations, as well as the sprinklers and hardware. Products only make up 25 per cent of the overall cost of a project so finance for installation makes a remarkable difference.

It also means that now for the first time, finance is available across all our brands.

As our customers' role changes, so does ours as a distributor. If the course manager is expected to do more, then it goes without saying the distributor is expected to do more too. We took a look at the business and set about making sure we deliver more in every way to golf clubs: what they need, when they need it, and it seems to be a strategy that's working.





# Course furniture

## Combining the traditional and the ultra-modern

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Course Furniture

**I**t has been said that the details are what counts. Get those special little touches right and the golfer will notice.

After all, a well-signposted tee box is far more noticeable to your amateur golfer than the layer of thatch below the putting surface.

At BTME, we noticed a traditional wicker basket hole marker, such as was seen at European golf clubs back in the late 19th Century. Back then, British clubs used baskets as they survived the strong seaside winds better than flags, and Tacit's reintroduction of traditional hole markers led us to ask, what does the future hold for golf course furniture, and how will this impact our enjoyment of the game?

We spoke to Tim Webb, president of Tacit Golf, about changing fashions with regards to course furniture, and how the game stands at a crossroads between ultra-modern and more traditional features.

More observant golf fans will recall that at the 2013 US Open, which saw Justin Rose claim victory, Merion Golf Club featured some rather fetching wicker baskets as hole markers.

Following a visit to Europe around 1912, Hugh Wilson, designer of

Merion Golf Club, was charmed by the wicker baskets he saw at British clubs and took the idea back to Pennsylvania in 1912, where they remain a symbol of Merion to this day.

In contrast, over the past 30 years, improved technology has seen the introduction of the anti-rotation ferrule and cup, which improved the longevity of the cup and pin, while the Shole hammer holecutter was invented in the last decade. Prior to that, many clubs continued to utilise the automatic hole cutter introduced at Royal Musselburgh in 1829.

**So, how have fashions changed out on golf courses?**

"The recent trend has been towards heavily embroidered and intricate logos being displayed on pin flags," explained Tim. "This is a move away from pin placement flags and the introduction of the three-colour flag system."

One subtle development has been the introduction of the Florida Key, which Tacit has developed to replace the old method of attaching flags to the hole marker via a length of material and knots.

**Continued over**



US Open at Merion by Omar Rawlings









Tim added: "More recently there is a trend towards the traditional. Golf clubs, by their nature, are traditional entities and like to harp back to the good old days.

"We already have the ability to introduce technology in many areas of course equipment, but this is usually shunned by the regular golf course."

Imagine a tee marker that is connected to the flagstick via a laser, in the same way that handheld distance markers measure how far away the flag is. Each hole could have a digital display showing the exact distance from the tee markers to the hole.

Such technology doesn't seem too far away. Others, such as a 'bunker bot' that is housed within each



Golf furniture was on display at BTME



bunker and rakes the sand after a person has left it, are at-present in the realm of golfing sci-fi.

"Way into the future, we could all be assigned our own drone for the round that would follow us around, advise us on the hole and the shot required, track your ball, hover above it, film your round, keep your score, get your ball when it is out of bounds, and then order your post game drink while you finish up on the 18th," said Tim.

"However, in the main I don't think technology is the answer. Golf by its nature is a traditional game and lends itself to the natural, if artificially-enhanced, environments and I can see the game reverting more and more to its roots.

"We are being asked more and more often about how we can help speed up play. We even had a flyer produced at BTME this year, highlighting how course equipment can actually speed up play. I think this is the future, not gadgets but a sensible attitude to what equipment is required on the course, to make the playing of the course as slick as possible."

Cost will determine how much golf clubs can invest in course furniture, but for the overall development of the industry, it seems that not unlike golf clubs and golf balls, technology will continue to develop and be embraced, but will remain subtle, hidden behind the traditional roots of the game.

'We already have the ability to introduce technology in many areas of course equipment, but this is usually shunned by the regular golf course.'



## BMS

### Recycled plastic furniture

BMS manufacture a wide range of recycled plastic furniture, from benches and litter bins through to tee and information signs.

All of the products are designed by an experienced creative team and made using high quality recycled plastic with an outdoor guaranteed lifespan of 10+ years.

The Square Litter Bins' new design has become a popular choice for golf courses across the UK and Europe. The bin is available in brown or black recycled plastic and is supplied with a recycled plastic liner. For that extra touch, the club or sponsor logo can be added to the front of the bin for a small extra charge.

All of the course furniture can be manufactured to suit a customer's individual requirements, including converting your litter bins into tee stations, or adding zinc logo plates plus much more.

#### Dunstable Downs Golf Club

"We approached BMS to help design and build our new tee signage, we wanted something cost effective that would last for many years to come. The team helped with numerous revisions and assistance with artwork. They took all the stress and hassle away for us, and our members are very pleased with the stunning end result."

#### Hollywood Golf Club

"BMS help us with our signage around the course, so when we required a new reserved tee sign we went straight to them. They provided us with a high-quality 3D drawing of how the sign would look before proceeding and we were thrilled with the finished item."



## Kubota

### RTV-X900

Kubota's RTV-X900 is continuing to raise the bar for greenkeepers, enabling them to complete daily maintenance across the course quicker and easier.

Fitted with a compact and powerful 21.6HP, 3-cylinder liquid cooled diesel engine and advanced variable hydraulic transmission for maximum torque, greenkeepers can count on dependable performance, without damaging the terrain.

This is due to the machine's limited-slip front differential and locking rear differential, designed to help reduce wheel spin for greater control and traction, particularly in wet or rough conditions.

Kubota's dynamic braking, which provides initial braking power and greater driving control on descents, is another feature of the RTV-X900, enabling operators to have complete control when travelling across the course.

The RTV X-Series utility vehicles raise the bar on ground clearance too, with a maximum ground clearance of 263mm, allowing the machine to negotiate lumps and bumps with ease. The fully independent suspension system offers incredible ride comfort and quality for long periods of use.

As well as the towing capacity, the Kubota RTV-X900 also offers impressive load capability too, including a 15.2 cubic foot cargo bed. Loading and unloading is simple too due to the hydraulic lift, allowing heavy loads to be dumped in seconds. Inside the cab, the RTV-X900 has 60:40 split seating; power steering; an easily accessible parking brake and a digital meter cluster with bright, easy-to-read instructions.





# Pinseeker<sup>TM</sup>

## GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT

Graham Greenwood, Pinseeker

### No longer is Cheshire just famous for wealthy footballers and their WAG's.

Tucked away in Middlewich, busily crafting and creating course after course of custom flags, pins, hole cups and on course furniture is the Pinseeker factory.

Times are indeed changing and under one roof you will find British manufacturing at its best with the ability to not only design a concept but then follow it all the way through to the production. Here is a working example of the seamless marriage of technology, with state of the art CNC operations, working in harmony alongside more traditional practices, like carpentry. This might not be what you would

conventionally expect for such a traditional industry but this really is where years-old techniques crash headlong into modern manufacturing.

### Over 1 million stitches per day

With ever increasing pressure for golf clubs to drive standards, the need for quality is only increasing. Nowhere is this more evident than Pinseeker's own range of logo flags. With tens of thousands being produced each year it's not surprising really that in peak season the embroidery department will do over an eye watering 1,000,000 stitches per day!

Something more unusual coming from the flag department this season is the custom pennant flag.

The pennant combines tradition alongside premium quality and is available in a number of unique styles and designs. Using the very latest in digital print technology Pinseeker direct print the material in full colour on both sides before stitching in house to complete the process. A little larger than a conventional flag, the traditional shape of the pennant means that it is great for high wind courses.

If flag pin development is what you're after then look no further. Moving on from a painted flag pin that is prone to chipping from ball strikes, particularly on par 3's. Pinseeker use heat shrink sleeving to protect their pins, with arguably the world's toughest heat shrink pin sleeving, "VinylGuard" fitted to all flag pins as standard.



Pinseeker's custom pennant flags





When you combine this with the heavy weight zinc die cast locking ferrule and the “click fit” flag change system for the top of the flag pin, you can see why Pinseeker has been the preferred choice for many leading courses.

More recently, the Pinseeker craftsmen have been using their skills for a slightly different challenge. The introduction of the Heritage Range of hardwood flag pins is certainly something different and very special. A bespoke range of hardwood flag pins for the special events on the golf course. The collection of putting green pins are machined from ash and crafted using the finest fittings. Supplied with an embroidered flag or further personalised with an etched logo detail these really are from a bygone era. Pinseeker have also created an imperious 7ft javelin flag pin in the Heritage Range. Perfect just for special events on the 18th green.

Unashamedly proud of being at the forefront of manufacturing in this sector, the Pinseeker team are always looking to develop and innovate. There is no better example of this than the recent launch of ProPlex, representing the very latest generation of recycled plastic profiles. Having spent years producing custom hardwood furniture, more and more requests are being received for quality recycled plastic products.

## ProPlex — a premium quality recycled plastic product.

With the ever-increasing demand for quality combined with economic value, Pinseeker launched the ProPlex range at this year's BTME. Specifically designed to meet these criteria, ProPlex is 100% post-consumer HDPE. With improvements in the processing of the material, unlike other composites and lesser quality materials, there are no fillers that can absorb moisture and affect performance. It is safe to say the ProPlex range of furniture is designed to not only “last a lifetime” but be virtually maintenance free throughout.

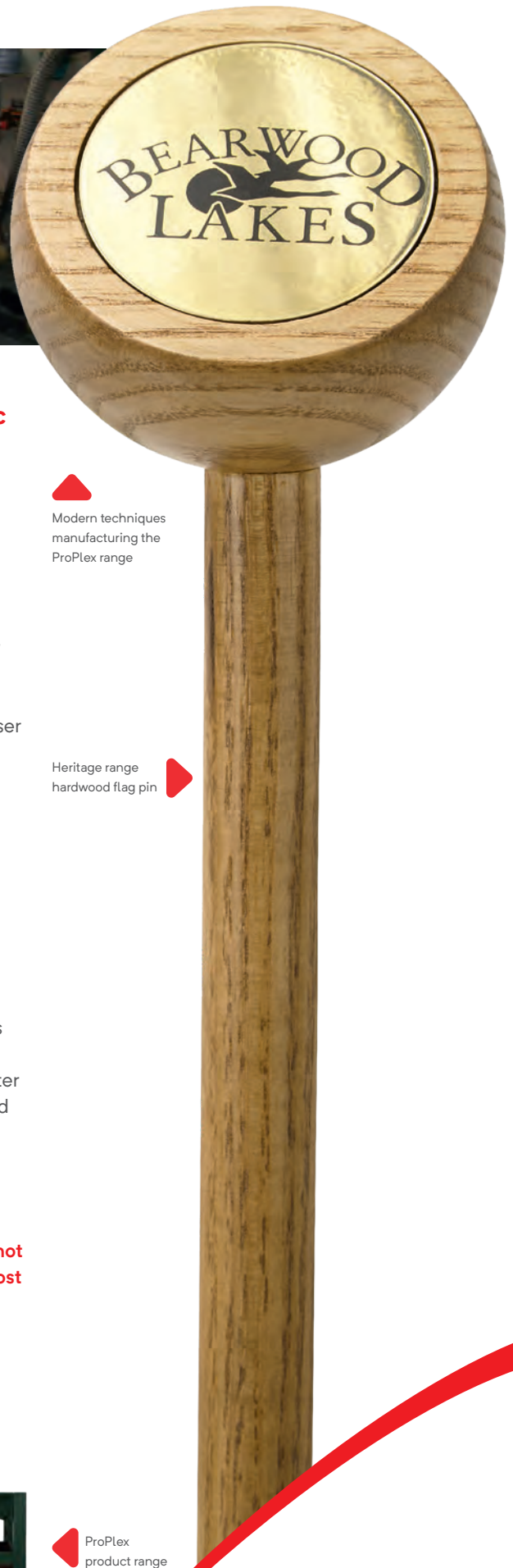
With super sleek new profiles available in green, brown and black colour combinations, the eco-friendly ProPlex range looks super sharp and comes with a suite of products that include litter bins, divot boxes, tee markers and a range of signs to complete the extensive portfolio.

And with the tag line, **“Finally there is a range of recycled plastic furniture that not only looks amazing but won't cost the earth,” who can argue with those credentials?**

Modern techniques manufacturing the ProPlex range

Heritage range hardwood flag pin

ProPlex product range



For more details check out Pinseeker's new website [www.pinseeker.co.uk](http://www.pinseeker.co.uk)



# Turfgrass nutrition: the benefits of compost

Below left: Fairhaven compost bay

Below right: Adi Porter, Greetham Valley Golf Club



**C**ompost can be a useful tool for greenkeepers who would like to provide their turf with a little extra nutrition.

In clay soils, good quality compost will improve structure, promote drainage and provide nutrients, while in sandy soils it will increase water and nutrient retention and increase microbial activity.

And if you make your own compost, you could save a significant portion of your budget, while also reducing waste and helping the club become more sustainable.

Greetham Valley, the 2017 Golf Environment Awards winner, has been producing its own compost for a number of years, and Course Manager Adi Porter talked us through the process, which they have developed.

"The cost savings are not easy to quantify," explained Adi. "But since we started applying it to our

weaker fairways, I have found that thanks to the improvement and increase in the organic matter of the soil profile, I have been able to reduce the amount of nitrogen we require to sustain growth. This has been ongoing for many years."

An example of the savings that making their own compost has allowed the Greetham Valley team to make is the development of approximately 700m<sup>2</sup> of shrub borders around the car park area.

These were filled with a mixture of this year's compost and the club's own topsoil. The only cost to the club, other than labour, was the diesel used in the mini digger for mixing and loading...

**Continued over**





## Benefits of compost use

(REMADE Scotland Organics Programme — May 2006)

1. Increases nutrients and reduces the need for artificial fertilisers
2. Helps plants grow better and survive longer
3. Reduces soil compaction
4. Improves moisture retention
5. Increases microbial activity
6. Boosts soil temperatures
7. Reduces erosion
8. Prevents root disease
9. Reduces nutrient losses
10. Improves plant quality



# Greetham's compost process

## Year 1

In the autumn we collect and store all leaves in a bay constructed with soil mounds.

We add vegetable peelings from the clubhouse, and mix around two times a month.

We add the ash from the biomass boilers and some chippings from our leylandii removal programme.

We also add all our cores from coring the greens and tees, and all the scarifying debris from greens, tees and fairways, and some of the grass from the grassland management programme.

During the cutting season we add grass clippings from areas local to the compost heap, along with more vegetable peelings and ash through the summer months, again turning once a month.

## Year 2

Prior to the next lot of leaves, we move the compost out of the bay and leave it to stand for another 12 months without turning.

## Year 3

The following September, if we are using it for fairway dressing, we screen it through a 20mm screen and spread. If we are using it on flower beds we don't screen it.

We generate around 20m<sup>2</sup> and use it all. It's just enough to dress a couple of small fairways, so we could easily use a lot more, but we just don't generate enough compostable material.



and in the tractor for transporting, and amounted to approximately £100.

The club produces between 20–30m<sup>3</sup> of compost each year. A decade ago, when they would purchase compost for dressing some of the weaker fairways, the cost would be £800 per 30m<sup>3</sup>.

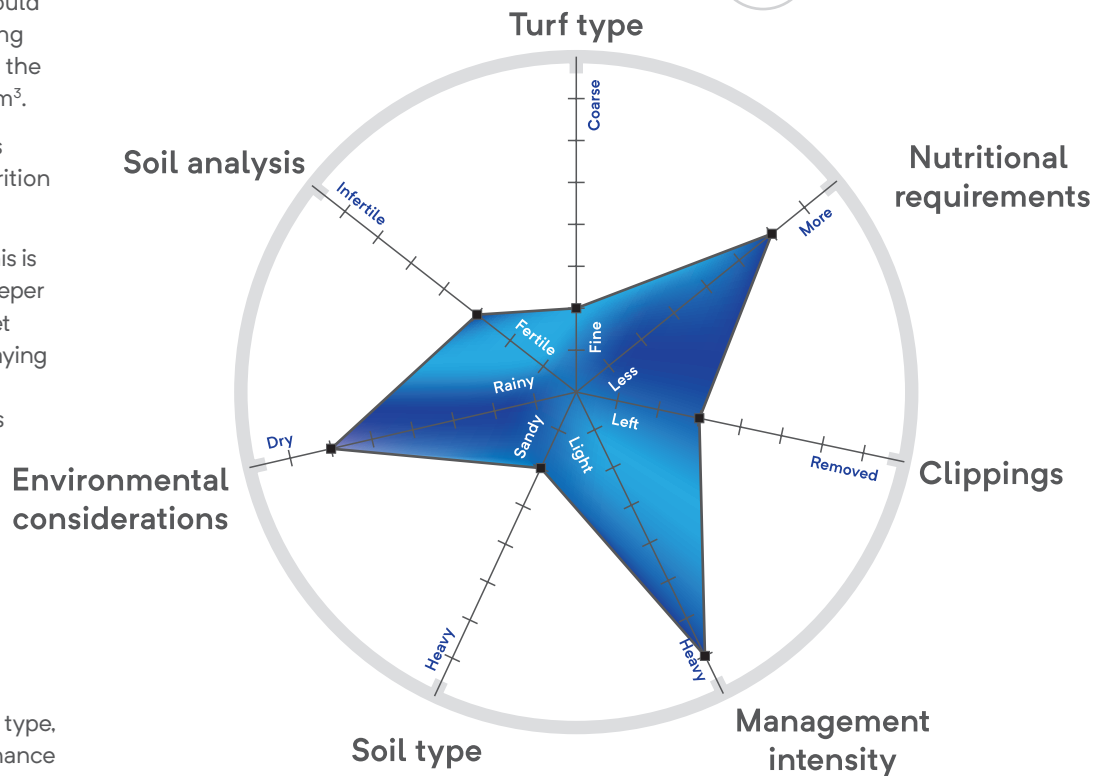
A trickier problem is perhaps deciding how much turf nutrition to apply to your course.

ICL's Henry Bechelet said: "This is where the skill of the greenkeeper comes into play. They must set the nutrient levels to meet playing quality objectives, while also achieving the agronomic aims of progressing the grass species' composition and minimising the level of disease activity."

Local knowledge and experience is therefore key, with the greenkeeper taking into account things such as grass species, course type, level of play, and the maintenance and management philosophy.

## How much fertiliser should I use?

The chart below represents the factors to consider when working out how much fertiliser you need.



'Local knowledge and experience is therefore key, with the greenkeeper taking into account things such as grass species, course type, level of play,...'

Compost at Fairhaven Golf Club





## Indigrow

### Innovative pioneering technologies

Indigrow commenced business in Reading, Berkshire, in the spring of 1993 and during the last 25 years has grown into a worldwide organisation.

Its services now include the sports turf industry and a range of agricultural industry sectors, operating in over 40 countries throughout the Far East, Middle East and Europe. The head office location is Brimpton, Berkshire, with a further three regional offices within its area of trade and a total of over 40 personnel across the globe.

In the last 25 years, Indigrow has developed a reputation for innovative and pioneering technologies in the world of sports turf and agriculture, all stemming from the slogan "growth through innovation". It is this thought process that

drives the business forward. The product development cycle hasn't shown any signs of slowing and new products and technologies are being launched all the time to cover the climates in which our customers operate.

One of the latest innovations involves the range of super-concentrated OneShot products. From penetrant wetting agents, through pH adjusters to seaweeds and amino acids, the OneShot range was developed with the environment in mind. Minimal packaging waste, reduced transport costs and improved water conservation were at the forefront of the development plan.

To help celebrate reaching 25 years in business, Indigrow has a variety of

special offers available to customers during the first 25 days of March. For more information, contact the local sales representative or call 01189 710995 or email [growth@indigrow.com](mailto:growth@indigrow.com)



# TYM TRACTORS

# MORE



**Powerful, reliable and versatile.  
TYM compacts deliver more.**

The T503 mid-duty compact tractor offers the perfect balance of economy with performance. The powerful and reliable 49hp engine makes easy work of maintenance and moving tasks on golf courses and gives you more scope with a range of attachments, including backhoes, front loaders and a rear trailer hitch. The T503, more versatility for your budget without the compromises.

[reesinkturfcare.co.uk](http://reesinkturfcare.co.uk)

**Get more from your turfcare partner this year:**

**More products > More advice > More training > More finance**

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# REESINK Turfcare

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# Around the Green Scotland & N. Ireland



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**Regional Administrator**

**John Young**  
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East: Experiencing first hand the loudest tournament of the year at TPC Scottsdale in Arizona

while the autumn outing is on Tuesday 4 September at Elmwood Golf Club.

Also on the go is the Pairs Competition. Again, keep an eye out for emails, if you are not getting emails then get in touch to update your address.

Our congratulations go to Andy O Hara from Leven Links who picked up an R&A Scholars Gold Badge for his services towards the Scholars Programme, an honour well deserved. Well done Andy from all at the section.

Anything you would like to see in this section, please feel free to get in touch. If you want to share any work you have been doing on your course, any interesting ideas you have come up with or even to tell us that your cat has had an operation. We would like to hear from you.

## North



**Neil Sadler**  
gkneil@sky.com

There will be a few changes in the way the section will be run this year and a few things planned for the year. Firstly, some of you would have noticed a change in email address. If you can use this from now on, that would be great. Moving on, we also have a new bank account, so for all of you that paid your outing entries and

## East



**Grant Moran**  
@BIGGA\_ES  
grant@mortonhallgc.co.uk

What an amazing experience for Colin McArthur, Craig Hempseed and Scott Corrigan, experiencing first hand the loudest tournament of the year at TPC Scottsdale in Arizona. They even had a police escort to the course and what a week they all had, seeing first hand how it's done on the American tour.

Our first education seminar of the year was held at Elmwood in February with a good turnout for Stephen Casburn (Sea Nymph/Galway Bay Marine Ltd) and Kenny Liddell (TASC Ltd).

Kenny gave us an update on chemicals that are still available and not available for use, while Stephen gave us an insight in to the benefits of using seaweed on turf and what really goes on when producing seaweed products.

As I write this, there is a week until the Scottish Region Conference at Perth and from what I hear a great attendance is expected. I hope you all gained something beneficial from the day.

## Section News

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

Email your news to  
Karl@bigga.co.uk

## Central



**Craig Boath**  
@CraigBoath  
cboath@carnoustiegolflinks.co.uk

Hope everyone is weathering well in and around the section. Not long to the start of the season now so everyone will be busy getting the courses ready.

We have a few course walks lined up through the year, starting at Montrose, looking at the start of June (TBC) and at Carnoustie (July) prior to The Open.

We are also looking at a seminar with Richard Windows and Adam Newton, which will be confirmed soon.

Also, we are only just coming out of winter, but a date for the diary is our Educational Day on 6 November.

The spring outing this year is on Wednesday 25 April at Leven Links,



Central: Andy O Hara with his R&A Scholars Gold Badge





SW Scotland: Powfoot Fire Damage

200 club by BACS, could you delete those details and use the new ones, which will be on the bottom of the entry form to our first outing of the year.

Regarding the outings for this season, Our spring outing will be at Nairn Dunbar on 3 May. This outing will be our normal Stableford format and the entry form is attached below.

Our autumn outing will be at Banchory on 27 September, but for the first time we will be trying a Texas Scramble format. If you wish to enter a team of four that's fine, if not you can just enter and we'll place you in a team. Payment for the outings this year must be made in advance by BACS or cheque. No payment will be taken on the day and you will not be entered into the draw if payment has not been made. If for some reason you have entered but cannot play, a refund will be provided if we are notified seven days in advance.

The 200 Club will have a slight increase this year from £7 to £8, but the benefit is we will be paying out more prize money. More information on that will be sent out in due course. Like the outings, we would like the payment for the 200 Club to be in advance of the Nairn outing, again by BACS or cheque.

If you have any questions please feel free to drop me a email.

Our section patron winner last year was Scott Aitchison and his prize was a fully paid trip down to BTME. Scott wrote a short peace on his trip:

*Having been lucky enough to win the patron's award for the North Section, I was able to head down to Harrogate this year with travel, education paid for and my hotel booked for me.*

*I used my education vouchers to book in with Micah Woods for MLSN guidelines*

*and thought it was interesting but high end greenkeeping, very technical but not essential. The other course I had booked later that day was with Sophie Vukelic about golf courses having the ability to help nature flourish. This was something I was keen to go to as Royal Dornoch recently became GEO Certified. Both tutors' passion was clearly evident for their subject and I found that to be the theme this year, people's passion!*

*It was nice to get on the stage at the awards ceremony to receive a CPD milestone award. I thought the awards ceremony was fun, except for the comedian who might have done better a bit later on in the evening! Naga was excellent as a compère though.*

*Well done to all winners, nominees and to everyone who was able to make it along to Harrogate because I'm sure you'll be feeling like I do, that despite the 10-hour journey each way, the opportunities for education, networking and the show itself, is definitely worth it.*

*Thanks again to the North Section for the award.*

Please remember to keep your information updated so we can keep you all informed of upcoming events.

## SW Scotland



**Steven Carmichael**  
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 stevious79@icloud.com

As you read this we are approaching the new season, so I hope the poor weather has passed and we are all managing to finish our winter projects.

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

Unfortunately, one club that will be finding things tough in the build up to the season is Powfoot. Head Greenkeeper Neil Hamilton received the phone call that we all dread. A fire had started through the night in the main shed and had caused a considerable amount of damage. We all hope this situation is resolved quickly so Neil and the boys can start the new season off well.

## West



**Scott Davidson**  
 @BiggaWest  
 headgreenkeeper  
 @cathcartcastle.net

## Northern Ireland



**Andy Barr**  
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 Andybarr\_3@hotmail.co.uk



**Phillip Snellin**  
 @PhillipSnellin  
 philsnellin77@hotmail.com

This year I went to BTME in Harrogate for the first time. I've met so many other greenkeepers over the years at colleges and The Opens I worked at, so I thought it would be great to see some old friends, especially Stephen Stuart, who I was with at Elmwood. I really enjoyed the two days there and couldn't believe just how much stuff there is at the show (you could spend some amount of money there). I will definitely be back in the future.

Back to Northern Ireland and our Sports Turf Matters show at Greenmount Campus. It will be on Thursday 8 March between 10am and 4pm and on the day there will be seminars, demonstrations and a trade exhibition.

Remember, if you have any stories and photos of your courses, please give myself and Andy a shout on Facebook or our emails at philsnellin77@hotmail.com and andybarr\_3@hotmail.co.uk





# Around the Green Northern



**Chairman**

**Chris Sheehan**

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wdgcgreenkeeper@gmail.com



**Regional Administrator**

**Sandra Raper**

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@BIGGANorthReg

sandra@bigga.co.uk



North East: Snow

## North East



**Paul Walton**

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paul\_walton14@hotmail.co.uk

Well I'm sure everyone is sick of the winter months and waiting for the grass cutting season to begin, I know I am! After a good few inches of snow it gives our course down at Sharpley a good rest, but that snow didn't last very long.

The BIGGA North East spring tournament will be held at Whitley Bay on Thursday 22 March. It's a fantastic venue and I'm sure everyone who can make it is looking forward to playing and seeing the rest of the chaps, priced at £15 for members and £20 for non-BIGGA Members. Coffee or tea and bacon sandwich on arrival, with a nice warm meal to finish the day off. Anyone who would like to attend please contact either me on paul\_walton14@hotmail.co.uk or 07814565360 to book their place.

Myself and the rest of the BIGGA North East team are working on the education, training and social days for this year's calendar. There will be some exciting seminars and workshops to attend, so keep your eyes open for them in the next few months. Once we have these confirmed it will be shared over Facebook, email and text message.

Thank you  
to our section  
sponsors

**What's  
on near  
you**

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

## Cleveland



**Anthony McGeough**

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aol.com

Very quiet on the Cleveland front with not too much news filtering its way down to me. I can only explain this as the lull after the Lord Mayor's Show. I had a great BTME this year, with two days of education and then spending the last day with my little boy at his first show with some father-son time, although Zephyr spent more time with the ladies on the BIGGA stand than with me. Thanks for entertaining him while I ate my sandwich.

Everyone seems to be getting their heads down and preparing for the coming season, which if you work or live near me seems a million miles away! Snow and rain are hampering the renovation work, but credit to the lads when we do get an opportunity to get on with some good old fashioned graft. Shovels and rakes, 29 tonnes at a time. I'm sure all the lads enjoy the digging, and if not they are keeping it to themselves.

After the Section AGM we made the decision to move the spring golf tournament to later in the year and it is now more like the 'sprummer' tournament. The main reason behind this was the falling attendances and what seems to be a clash with a lot of guy's renovation weeks. This year the 'sprummer' tournament will be held at Ramside Hall on 5 June. At the time of



Cleveland: Zephyr's first ever BTME

writing this, spaces are down to the last three. When they've gone they've gone. Tee times will be from 10.30am with a 9.30am meet for bacon butties and coffee and a two-course meal after the golf. Cost of the day is £20.

Lecture evening on 7 March at Teesside, kick off at 7pm on the topic of 'Life without fungicides: is it possible?' David Snowden of Agronomic Services will enlighten us on the situation regarding fungicides and their availability to us in future. This is a great opportunity to get together and assess what can and will help in the long term controlling of our turf surfaces.

## North West



**Steve Hemsley**

@BIGGANorthWest

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ntlworld.com

Firstly, on behalf of the whole section, may we express our sadness and shock at the terrible news that Martin Davenport, from Eaton GC, died following a tragic accident. We send our sincere condolences to his family and friends and to everyone at the golf club.

Winter is well and truly here in the Northwest with many courses having to close for snow or flooding. The record amount of rainfall in this area has caused havoc for many of us and it has made the job extremely difficult. However, by communicating with the club, we are able to explain what effect the extreme weather has on the course and the reasons for the closures. The members will quickly forget January and February when they are complaining in May, so it is important to get the message out to them about excess moisture levels and compaction.

Everyone I spoke to at Harrogate on the Thursday seemed to be very positive about the show and the educational side of it, which now forms an integral part of BTME week. We should all look forward to next year where I know changes to improve the visitor



experience are already underway. We have two new YGC representatives in the section, well done to James Dobie of Leyland GC and Chris McMurdo from Gathurst GC for stepping up to promote the industry.

Congratulations go to Chris Ball who has taken the role of Links Manager at Hillside GC. Good luck Chris! Also, congratulations to Scott Reeves of Leyland GC who has become the new BIGGA Chairman Elect for 2019. Next year Scott will join Chris Sheehan, who will take on the role of President, when the Northwest section will proudly host the BIGGA National Championship in late September. Formby GC and Formby Ladies GC will host the event, incidentally the first time a tournament will have been held over the two courses. For those looking for volunteer tournament experience, this presents a great opportunity. Keep an eye on the events page as there are lots of different things planned. There is also talk of the Turf Clubs expanding into different regions of the Northwest so there shouldn't be one too far away from you.

## Yorkshire



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

No doubt everyone is getting ready for the upcoming season, with hopefully the chance of encountering some good British weather (e.g. sunshine, not unlimited rain)!

Please book early for the golfing events as numbers are often limited.

Well done to Richard Smith at Clayton Golf Club for clocking up 30 years service! Didn't know Richard came into greenkeeping later on in his life! Lol See you all at Bingley St Ives.

## Sheffield



**Adrian Keys**  
 ajkeys79@hotmail.com  
 @SheffieldBigga

Well another month has gone by with yet more rain, snow and freezing temperatures. This winter really is starting to drag now, with everybody being in a similar position.

Another BTME has been and gone. Wednesday was as busy as I can remember at the show, so things must be on the up. Many thanks to Tom Smith of Tacit Golf for feeding and watering me on Wednesday night.

I know there has been a few break-ins around the Sheffield area, with myself included at Wortley. Unfortunately they got away with a large quantity of Stihl equipment. If anyone sees a Silver Subaru Legacy acting suspicious around your compound then be aware that it could be the same people. Many thanks to Rob at Worksop for helping me out with a few bits of equipment while I am waiting to replace the stolen items.

Matt Holden from Sickleholme informs me that Oli and Rich are auditioning for Britain's Got Talent as a singing duo, so good luck to those two in their bid for stardom.

On a sadder note, we have recently seen the passing of Alan Dyson. Alan's funeral will take place at Huddersfield Crematorium on Friday 9 March at 2.45pm for anyone wishing to attend.

Hopefully by the time of the next issue the weather will have picked up and we will be heading into spring with renewed gusto.

## North Wales



**Eifion Ellis**  
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 eifionellis9@gmail.com

The North Wales Section committee is going through a period of change. After many years of loyal service, Jeremy Hughes, Carl Crocher and Andrew Cornes have stepped down from the section committee. Everyone in the Section thanks them for their dedicated service over the years and look forward to seeing them at future events, in order to thank them in person.

The conference at Coleg Cambria (Deeside), organised by Rhys Butler, was very well attended and enjoyed by all with a good and varied array of speakers. Thanks are extended to Allturf for sponsoring the day.

Future events include the summer golf day at Royal St David's, Harlech, on 13 June; the autumn tournament at Aberdovey on 27 September, the Christmas tournament and AGM at Conwy on 5 December.

A demonstration day is being hosted by Charlies Groundcare Machinery at Henlle Park on Wednesday 18 April. On demonstration will be John Deere and Charterhouse Machinery from 10am until approximately 12.30pm, including coffee and bacon roll. Please contact Kev Pugh on 07966 149033 to book and to make any request for a specific item of machinery to be made available if possible. Follow Charlies Groundcare's Facebook page for machinery videos.

# New Members

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Jordan Watson	AGK - St Andrews Links Trust
Gerard Hughes	GK - Fortwilliam
Richard McCormack	GK - St Andrews Links Trust

### Northern

Chris Emsley	Affiliate - Impact Hire
David Baxter	AGK - Myerscough College
Matt Robertson	AGK - Whitwood
Sebastian Donaldson	AGK - Llandudno (Maesdu)
Stephen Gray	DH GK - Llandudno (Maesdu)
Paul Simpson	GK - Brancepeth Castle

### Central England

Peter Sands	Affiliate - Avoncrop Amenity
Nathan Parker	AGK - Buckingham
Daniel Jasper	AGK - Drayton Park (Tamworth)
Sam Hamer	CM - Drayton Park (Tamworth)
David Hartley	DCM - Drayton Park (Tamworth)
Adam Clark	GK - Wellington College
Andreas Weaver	GK - Burton-on-Trent
Chester Kennett	GK - Basingstoke
Chris Carey	GK - Buckingham
Clive Fisher	GK - Drayton Park (Tamworth)
James O'Brien	GK - Drayton Park (Tamworth)

### South East

Andrew Gill	GK - Walton Heath
Daniel Clark	GK - Saffron Walden
David Howe	GK - Roehampton
Robert Kyle	GK - Faversham
Scott Dunkerley	GK - Royal Automobile Club
Thomas Crocker	GK - Thorpe Hall

### South West and South Wales

Ashley Darnley	AGK - The Bristol
Wayne Burgoyne	AGK - Vale of Llangollen
Mark Harper	Education Supporter - Symbio



# Around the Green

## South West & S. Wales



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**Regional Administrator**

**Tracey Walker**

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# DON'T MISS OUT

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

Thornbury, which already includes Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity. If you haven't been lucky enough to be able to listen to Mark discussing the future of our industry and where we are heading with recent loss of pesticides, then you will be in for a real treat.

All information regarding our upcoming events will be emailed out to members very soon and we hope to see new and familiar faces.

### South Coast



**Mike Cartwright**

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### South West



**Dave Taylor**

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Well here we are after another fantastic BTME at Harrogate. I'm sure you will join me in thanking all the BIGGA staff who made this possible. Year on year the show continues to get bigger and better and it could not happen without all their hard work behind the scenes.

The South West Section's sponsored place to Harrogate was awarded to deputy head greenkeeper of Woodspring, Kevin Chambers, who was definitely very impressed with his first visit to BTME.

Kevin said: "While in Harrogate I met some fantastic people, who were all so knowledgeable and passionate about our industry!

"The conference centre is huge and at times very busy, but this only adds to the already great atmosphere.

"I took advantage of a few seminars and not only gained CPD points but found them to be enjoyable and informative.

"Harrogate is a must visit, not just to keep up to date with new products, machinery and techniques from fellow

turf professionals, but to improve your personal goals and networking skills within the turf management sector.

"A huge thank you to the South West board for voting for me, and our patrons for covering the accommodation cost and their continued support."

Every year we sponsor a place to Harrogate, so if it's something that takes your fancy for next year, we will be notifying section members later in the year, so keep your eyes peeled.

But way before then we have some great events coming up. In March we will be hosting an irrigation day at Cumberwell Park. This day will be consisting of hands on, on course tutorials by Alister Higgs, golf district manager for Rain Bird. We will be having multiple stations, covering different aspects of golf course irrigation systems. So, whether you are a complete novice when it comes to your irrigation or maybe you are looking to further your knowledge, we are sure that by the end of the day you will have a greater understanding of how to use and maintain your irrigation system.

We are also looking forward to our combined spring conference in March with the South Wales section. After last year's success at Celtic Manor, we are again joining forces to bring you another day of educational speakers at

During February, the section held its first breakfast meeting. Around 30 greenkeepers attended the event. Everyone enjoyed a full English breakfast before a Q&A session with a panel of industry experts, that included course managers, sales reps and representatives from the education sector. I was able to catch the last couple of questions and the format and quality of the Q&A's was excellent. The next meeting will be held at Rowlands Castle on 22 March. All who want to attend must pre-register using the form sent out via email.

As I write this, a one-day machine maintenance course is being held at Remedy Oak. I know this course was very popular and the spaces were filled very quickly, I will give more news of this next month.

The section seminar will have been held by the time you receive this edition of GI. The event is fully subscribed and there will be news of what happened in next month's report.

Now is also the time to start dusting off your golf bats and get some practice in before this year's competitions.

The spring tournament will be held at Meyrick Park on 12 April. Look out for details in your inbox.

### Section News

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

Email your news to  
[Karl@bigga.co.uk](#)



The annual Greenkeepers v Secretaries match will be taking place at Corhampton on 17 May. The 'Course Care Cup' will be contested for the 21st time this year. This event is sponsored by Course Care, and entry is free. If you would like to be in the team of ten, then please email me at [mikecartwright1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikecartwright1@hotmail.co.uk).

## South Wales



**Andrew Hatcher**  
 @BIGGASouthWales  
[andrewhatcher1@msn.com](mailto:andrewhatcher1@msn.com)

The rain had stopped, but the cold wind remained for our joint golf day between BIGGA South Wales and BIGGA South West. It was great to see so many turn up to play at Royal Porthcawl. Thanks to Ian and his team, the course was in fantastic condition. Also thanks to the catering team. Results: 1st, Adam Young; 2nd, Peter Lacey; 3rd, Tom Howells; longest drive, Tom Howells; nearest the pin, Gian Povey.

Another successful day and hopefully see you all at the Kendleshire in August for the summer tournament. Thanks to the patrons and South West Section.

The section wishes Jon Knight all the best for the future, moving on to a new and totally different challenge.

Here are the details for the South West and South Wales joint education day at Thornbury on 14 March:

9.45am, coffee and registration;  
 10am, Mark Hunt, technical director, Headland Amenity, 'Reacting to change and the challenges ahead';  
 10.45am, James Edwards, EDI-Golf, 'If it doesn't fit, make it fit';  
 11.30am, Perennial;  
 12noon, lunch;  
 12.45pm, Geoff Fenn, technical manager, Advance Grass Solutions;  
 1.30pm, Kevin Ashmore, UK manager, Husqvarna Professional, short presentation on advances in technology followed by demonstration;  
 3pm, finish.

£20 per person to include lunch, non-member £25.

For those travelling from South Wales, we will reimburse the bridge toll on production of a receipt. CPD credits available.

## Devon & Cornwall



**Neil Rogers**  
 @buckaroo14  
[nrogers@advancegrass.com](mailto:nrogers@advancegrass.com)

It was great to see members from our section making the long journey to BTME and we hope that Sam Dunn and Shaun Warren, who received the two sponsored places, enjoyed the experience. For those who have never been, or not for some time, you can put yourself forward or nominate a colleague to take up one of the sponsored places. Once again we were the only section to provide free transport to Harrogate via the minibus and thanks must go to Jacko for organising and driving the bus.

In January we held two mechanics workshops in conjunction with Reesink Turfcare at St Mellion, which proved to be very popular with all 20 places taken. A big thanks to Mike Bush for allowing us to use their facilities and also to Steve Dommet and DGM for providing the necessary machinery.

By the time you read this we will have had our spring workshop at St Enodoc. Thanks to Scott Gibson for once again allowing us to use the facilities and to all the companies taking part on the day and providing machinery.

Colin Webber continues to put together details for the Liverpool trip on 6-7 March. For more details please contact Colin direct.

Our next event will be the section championship on 19 April at Tiverton. George Stephens and his team have been busy in the past couple of years with various projects which should lead to a very informative course walk. Our speaker is Professor Alan Gange, one of the leading soil biologists, who will be discussing microbiology.

Thanks and appreciation must go to all our patrons, as their continued support allows us to put on the events..

# New Members

## International

Brad Kautzer	Affiliate - Foley United
Alan Fitzgerald	Ledgerock
Arron McCurdy	Metedeconk National
Brian Moore	Glen View
Brian Palmer	Shoreacres
Chuck Barber	St Charles Country Club
Drew Barnett	Knollwood Club
Frank Tichenor	Forest Hill Field Club
Gary Finnerty	Regnum Carya
Jason Kahlstorf	St Charles Country Club
Jason Meersman	The Patterson Club
Jeff Heaton	Lake Geneva Country Club
Ott Avango	Kalmar
Scott Bordner	Chicago
Scott Pavalko	Bob O'Link
Thomas Gilchrist	Wien
Todd Fyffe	Westmoreland Country Club

Thank you  
to our section  
sponsors



# Around the Green

# Central England



**Chairman**

**Andrew Laing**

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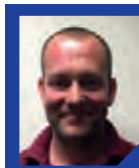


**Regional Administrator**

**Roger Butler**

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## BB&O



**Craig Earnshaw**

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craig@harleyfordgolf.co.uk

This winter has dragged on a bit, cold and wet in the main. That aside, I feel we are ploughing through our winter projects but could do with a little help from Him upstairs to get done in time for the season. I would like to bring you up to date with events for 2018.

Save the date list:

29 March, ICL turf club, venue TBC;

21 May, Toro spring cup at Temple;

12 June, Kubota turf club and factory tour;

24 July, Lister Wilder summer cup at Milride;

August, turf club, venue TBC;

September, autumn cup, venue and date TBC;

October, turf club, venue TBC;

8 November, stress management turf club at Frilford Heath;

6 December, AGM at Temple;

14 December, Turkey Trot at Frilford Heath.

We will be sending out an email to remind everyone what's happening each month, including an entry form for each event. If you are not receiving emails, please get in touch with BIGGA HQ to ensure we have the right email address. I hope you finish all your projects in time and spring comes sooner rather than later.

## Mid Anglia



**Darren Mugford**

d.mugford@  
rigbytaylor.com

I hope everybody is enjoying the improved weather we have seen recently, giving us all hope that spring is on it's way after a long, wet and cold winter period.

We are pleased to announce our first golf outing for 2018 will be held at Harpenden Common on Thursday 31 May, so please look out for details coming your way.

Thanks to sponsors: Rigby Taylor, Headland Amenity, Banks Amenity, ALS, Avoncrop Amenity, Banks Amenity as your support as ever is appreciated.

## Midland



**Glen Howard**

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## East of England



**Ian Collett**

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rigbytaylor.com

Firstly a belated Happy New Year to all in the East of England Section from myself and your committee members.

Secondly, also a bit late, results from the Christmas Golf AM-AM held at Torksey on 15 December, which was held in conjunction with Aidy Kitchinson's 40th anniversary at the club. Well done Aidy and congratulations.

There was a full field of 16 teams of four playing an AM-AM format. It was a great day for all taking part with some good scores on a great course, superbly presented by Aidy and his staff.

Thanks go to Rigby Taylor & Mansfield Sand for sponsoring this event.

Results: 1st, Newark, 95pts; 2nd, GKB, 93pts; 3rd, Torksey, 90pts (back 9 count back); 4th, Elsham, 90pts; nearest the pins, P. Pearson, M. Shaul; longest drives, Ken Goude, Tom Shinkins.

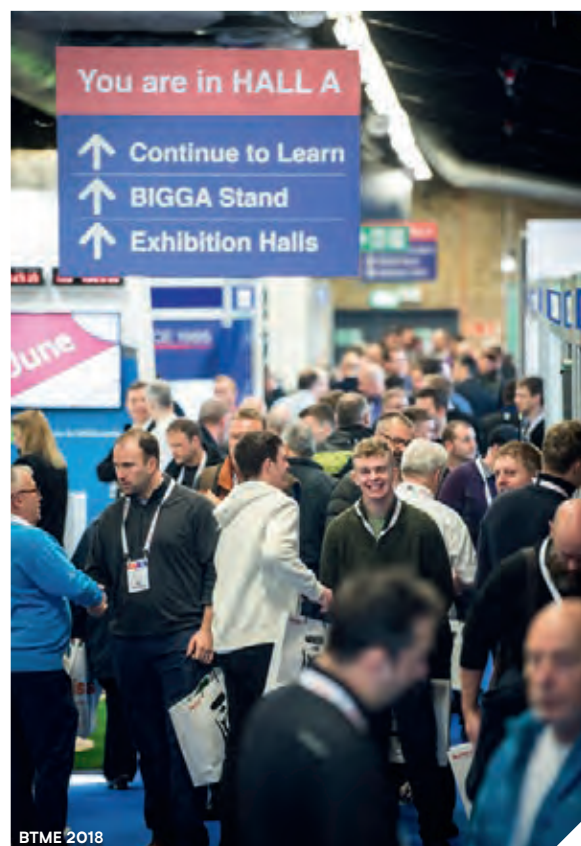
While on the golf subject, our first fixture of the season will be held at Holme Hall on 16 May. If you are wanting to play, please contact any committee member.

This year's fixture books should have been received by now. If not, contact Graham Ives at Louth (Graham where's mine please?!)

Congratulations also go to Dan Migate, assistant greenkeeper at Spalding, who has been selected for the support team at Shinnecock Hills for the US Open in June. Dan started his career as a summer casual greenkeeper at Boston and is also a groundsman at National League North Team Boston United.

Also Congratulations to Rob Bemment, who has moved to Woodhall Spa and to Matthew Shaul for stepping into Rob's old role at Immingham.

Finally Rob (saddlesore) Welford is riding from Land's End to John O'Groats in September, a journey of 989 miles, over nine days, sleeping in a tent. Rob hopes to raise at least £2,500 for Parkinsons UK. If you can support in any way please visit [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and search for Robert Welford. Good luck Rob!







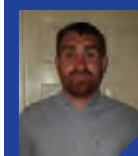
East Midlands: Asa English and Padraig Harrington at The Open 2017



Bayer's Turf Talks at BTME 2018

Any news or stories that you would like to see here, please give me a call.

## East Midlands



**Paul Fowkes**  
 @pazza20001  
 pazza20001@  
 gmail.com

I hope all that came to BTME at Harrogate had a good time. It was great seeing so many from our section up there. Sadly I didn't get time to chat with everyone, but those I did were saying how good it was. Well done too all at BIGGA for putting the show and education on.

On a sad note, our section chairman Asa English has decided it is time to step down. Asa has been on the committee for over 10 years and has decided it is time to let someone else come on board. Myself and the rest of the committee and section would like to thank Asa for all of his hard work over those 10 years. Without him a lot of golf days wouldn't have happened. We now look forward to finding his successor. If anyone would like to come on committee, please do not hesitate to contact me or Roger to talk about possible roles.

Thank you  
to our section  
sponsors

## What's on near you

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



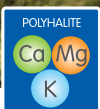
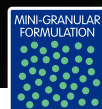
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# Around the Green South East



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As you guys are reading this, I'd like to think that the weather has improved. And our attentions have been turned to spring maintenance as opposed to winter catch-up! It's March already and the sunrises are getting earlier by the day. I have also seen a few early daffodils on my way to work too, so things are brightening up!

The last of the winter seminar series was on 7 March and we will have details from Anthony in the April edition regarding future educational events.

A reminder to all Kent members, please contact our Facebook and Twitter groups to keep up-to-date with all our news and events #getinvolved #biggakent.

Shout out to Tony Fitzpatrick at Mid Kent, who has jumped ship from Surrey to Kent... welcome aboard!

## East Anglia



**Mike Virley**  
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## Sussex



**Chris Humphrey**  
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turf-care.co.uk

6 December saw the section's AGM, held at The Dyke. After an exciting nine holes over the stunning downland

course, followed by ham, egg and chips, the AGM was held in the committee room at the clubhouse. Many thanks to The Dyke for the golf, meeting venue and quality refreshments. The election of officers is as follows: chairman, Dave Allan; secretary, George Morley; treasurer, Pete Smith; education, Joe Dormer; trade representative, Chris Humphrey.

The committee welcomed Dave Allan to the role of chairman. Dave has been a dedicated supporter of the Sussex section and has undertaken the role of secretary for a number of years in the past. Thanks and appreciation was given to Mike Poole, our past chairman for all his work over the past few years. We wish him every success in his future exploits.

On 19 December, 45 greenkeepers from Sussex and the surrounding area met at West Sussex for a turf club. There were seven quality speakers talking on a variety of subjects, an excellent and informative day. Look out for details of the next turf club.

A full list of all forthcoming events will be in the next edition.

If you have anything of interest, please contact me 07912 669457 or chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk

## Section News

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

Email your news to  
Karl@bigga.co.uk



# Upcoming Events

Contact your section secretary to book a place

## Scotland & Northern Ireland

**Central:** 25 April, Leven Links, spring outing

**North:** 3 May, Nairn Dunbar, section outing

**South West:** 10 May, Troon Portland, spring outing

## Northern

**North East:** 22 March, Whitley Bay, spring tournament

**Yorkshire:** 4 April, Bingley St Ives, spring tournament sponsored by ICL

**Sheffield:** 11 April, Abbeydale, Rain Bird Irrigation Day

**North Wales:** 18 April, 10am-12.30pm, Henlle Park, demonstration day

**North West:** 19 April, Grange Park Golf Club, Prestbury, spring tournament sponsored by Reelsharp

**North West:** 27 April, Hesketh, spring tournament

**Cleveland:** 5 June, Ramside Hall, 'sprummer' tournament

## Central England

**BB&O:** 29 March, venue TBC, ICL turf club

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

**East Midlands:** 2 May, Hollinwell, golf day

**East of England:** 16 May, Holme Hall, spring golf day

**BB&O:** 21 May, Temple, Toro spring cup

**Midlands:** 31 May, Nuneaton, golf day

## South East

**Region:** 19 April, Westerham, stress awareness seminar

**London:** 23 May, Stanmore, section golf day

## South West & South Wales

**South Wales:** 14 March, Thornbury, education day

**South West:** 22 March, Cumberwell Park, Rain Bird irrigation day

**South Coast:** 22 March, Rowlands Castle, Breakfast Club

**South Coast:** 29 March, Tidworth Garrison, Breakfast Club

**South Coast:** 12 April, Meyrick Park, spring tournament

**Devon & Cornwall:** 19 April, Tiverton, section championship

**South Coast:** 17 May, Corhampton, Greenkeepers v Secretaries match

Thank you to our section sponsors

Upcoming Regional Events

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







To advertise in the Buyer's Guide please contact:



**Lauren Frazer**  
Business  
Development  
Manager

01347 833832  
lauren@  
bigga.co.uk

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# New ways to claim CPD credits

**B**IGGA's revamped  
Continued  
Professional  
Development programme  
has been running now  
for nearly five years  
and it keeps going from  
strength to strength.

When we transferred all the active CPD members over to the new programme, there were only 120 members actively claiming CPD. As of March 2018, we have over 1,400 members claiming CPD.

Following a review of the system it was felt the claiming of CPD could be simplified. Therefore, we have introduced a new and faster way for you to claim CPD credits. If you are organising an event, you will now be sent a QR code (like the one above) and a web-link (like the one below), that you can display at the event and/or email to the delegates following the event.

To claim your CPD credits using the QR code, you will need to have a smartphone and be able to download a QR reader from your App Store.

These are generally free.



Once it's downloaded you will be able to scan the QR code and it will take you to a login page.

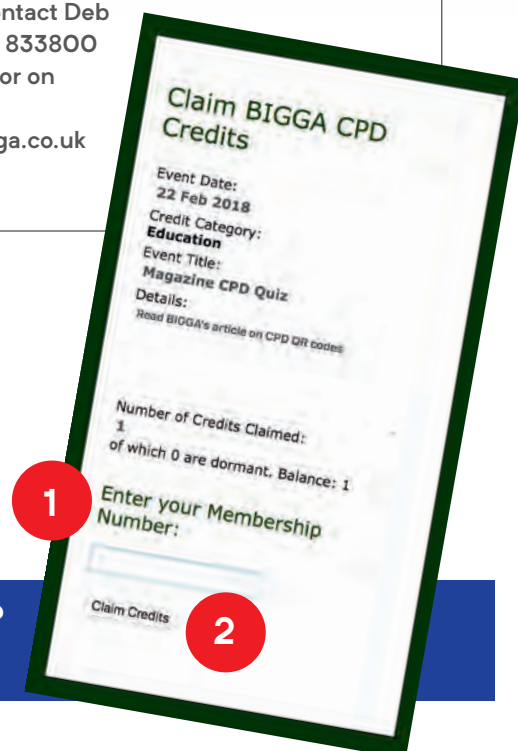
The web-link or hyperlink will take you to the same page, but this can be accessed from an email by clicking on the link.

To complete the claim all you will need to do is:

- 1 Enter your membership number.
- 2 hit Claim Credits and BOOM, the claim will be added to your CPD record. Simple!

**REMEMBER:** There is no need to register for CPD because as soon as you become a BIGGA member you already have an account. All you need to do is login to the BIGGA website and click on the link on the Continuing Professional Development page and you'll be taken to your account.

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

Neil McLoughlin, Deeside; Daniel Ashelby, Wilmslow; Richard Whittaker, Royal Lytham & St Annes; Adam Butler, Bedford & County; Les Howkins MG, Richmond; Simon Pyett, Halesworth; Robert Sandilands, Formby Ladies; Gavin Neill, St Andrews Links Trust; Thomas Jacques, Royal Lytham & St Annes; Jack Hetherington, Alnwick Castle; Martin Turna, Aldeburgh; Lyle Davidson, The Carrick; Jorge Mansio Grando, Coombe Wood; Simon Lambert, Seaford Head; David Warner, Woking; Kevin Armstrong, John O'Gaunt; Matthew Teasdale, Rockliffe Hall; Richard Johnstone, Nairn Dunbar Golf Links; Luke Green, Littlehampton; Jonathan Wood, St Andrews Links Trust; Michael Mead, Littlehampton; Angus Roberts, Roxburghe; Matthew Pledsted, Stoneham; Jamie Blake, Broadway; Philip Butler, Murrayfield; Scott Corrigan, Royal Troon; Kevin Hensman, Rowlands Castle; James Dobie, Leyland; Stuart Cagle, Advanced Turf Solutions; Paul Armour, Dunbar; Lewis Birch, Sunningdale; Michael Laheen, Cosby; Ben Kebby, Temple; Craig Berry, St Andrews Links Trust; Kevin Tigg, South Winchester; Ashley Allpress, Roehampton; Tony Stephen, Swinley Forest; Andrew Stanger, Headingly.

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

Adam Butler, Bedford & County; Robert Sandilands, Formby Ladies; Scott Reeves, Leyland; Matthew Teasdale, Rockliffe Hall; Philip Butler, Murrayfield; Scott Corrigan, Royal Troon; Stuart Cagle, Advanced Turf Solutions; Paul Armour, Dunbar; Michael Laheen, Cosby; Jamie Martin, Gifford; Tom Smith, Wickham Park; Craig Berry, St Andrews Links Trust; Stuart Adams, Cardigan; David Langheim MG, Wimbledon.



### 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

Lee Price | Myerscough College

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](mailto:karl@bigga.co.uk)

## National Apprenticeships Week

**B**etween 5 and 9 March was National Apprenticeships Week, following the theme 'Apprenticeships Work'.

The week-long campaign was intended to promote and raise awareness of apprenticeships to employers, young people, parents and those seeking to upskill, or change career pathways.

If you're thinking about becoming an apprentice, this quick guide will help you through some of the important things you need to know.

### Wages

Employers are responsible for all wage payments to apprentices. All apprentices are employees of the company where they work. Ideally, a salary should reflect the job role and skills and experience of the candidate, while recognising the training opportunity being offered. Apprentices must be paid in line with national minimum wage rules.

From April 2018, a minimum wage of £3.70 per hour must be paid to all apprentices who are under 19 or in the first year of their apprenticeship. Individuals not falling into these categories should be paid the National Minimum Wage. Apprentices must be employed for at least 30 hours per week and for a sufficient period of time that allows them to complete their apprenticeship.

### How long will it take?

The duration of an apprenticeship depends on the standard or framework being followed. They can take up to four years, but can not last less than 12 months.

### Who pays for the training?

Apprenticeships can be funded in a number of ways, and this can range from part funding to full funding depending on the size of your employer. Currently funding is available through the Skills Funding

Agency to support the delivery of training, and can be access to support the development needs of new or existing employees.

Employers with 50 staff or more are expected to contribute a minimum 10% towards the negotiated cost of the apprenticeship training. Those with a payroll in excess of £3m will fund apprenticeships through their levy account within the Digital Apprenticeship System.

### What is the apprenticeships levy?

Businesses whose annual payroll costs exceed £3m will be required to contribute 0.5% of their payroll. Levy monies will help fund the recruitment of enthusiastic young people into the workforce as well as support the skills development of your existing employees.

### What about apprenticeship funding for small businesses that do not have to pay the levy?

Employers with 49 staff or less, who offer apprenticeships to 16 to 18-year-olds, will receive 100% of the cost of the training from the Government. Employers will have to pay 10% of the cost for those aged 19 and over and the Government will pay the remaining 90%.

Employers with more than 50 staff who are not levy payers will be

expected to pay a minimum 10% of the apprenticeship training costs.

### Is there a cash incentive?

Employers can receive an incentive of £1,000 for taking on an apprentice aged 16 to 18.

### What are 'Trailblazer' standards?

Following a series of consultations, the way apprenticeships are delivered is gradually changing. Under the new system, employers will play an enhanced role in the planning and delivery of apprenticeships.

New apprenticeship standards are gradually being introduced across a range of programmes. Myerscough College became the first land-based college to introduce a standard, enrolling the first learner on the New Golf Greenkeeping Apprenticeship.

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Employers can receive an incentive of £1,000 for taking on an apprentice aged 16 to 18.

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- Experienced in taking responsibility for efficient, successful completion of daily & seasonal plans, not just of your own work but that of others too
- Proven personal commitment to continued professional development

To apply, please email your CV with a covering letter and contactable references to:  
johnny@castletown.golf



## Head Greenkeeper, Sitwell Park Golf Club

The Alister McKenzie designed Sitwell Park Golf Club in Rotherham are looking to appoint a Head Green Keeper (Course Manager).

- The successful candidate would provide the pro-active delivery of course maintenance and structured improvement measures in consultation with the Greens Chairman
- Management of resources, equipment, performance, service and costs
  - Manage and supervise Greens Staff daily activity to provide a high standard of playing conditions at the course including presentation
  - Undertake annual staff appraisals
  - Working understanding of Health & Safety and Risk Assessment
  - Chainsaw Licence desirable
  - Driving/machinery/licensing/certification
  - Good planning and organisational skills essential

In the first instance please forward your full CV and a covering letter to the Club Secretary Steve Bell at secretary@sitwellgolf.co.uk

Closing date: 12th March 2018

## Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper, Sherborne Golf Club

Sherborne Golf Club is entering its 125th year and is looking for a hardworking qualified assistant greenkeeper to help maintain this premier golf course. The successful candidate will be operating the latest Toro machinery, housed in new facilities.

This parkland course is kept to a very high standard with many prestigious competitions.

In return, BIGGA rates, pension contributions, uniform and other perks available after a probationary period.

Please forward your CV to:  
sgccourse@sherborgolfclub.co.uk or by post to:

Chris Watson, Course Manager  
Sherborne Golf Club  
Higher Clatcombe  
Sherborne  
DT9 4RN

Closing date:  
30 March 2018.



## Greenkeepers, Tyrrells Wood Golf Club



Tyrrells Wood Golf Club is a prestigious and busy private members club situated in the Surrey Hills close to J9 of the M25.

To provide very high standards of daily presentation and assist us in our significant ongoing course improvement programme, we are currently recruiting Assistant Greenkeepers. Applicants should be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, have a strong team orientation, be hardworking and possess excellent communication skills.

The successful applicants will receive a competitive salary and benefits package based on experience and qualifications.

Training and development plans in place for ongoing personal development. Full-time permanent roles and short-term casual greenkeeping contracts based on 37.5 hours a week with additionally paid weekends and overtime are available. Temporary accommodation may be available.

For more information or to apply for this position please email Paul Sheather: Course Manager: course.manager@tyrrellswoodgolfclub.com  
Closing date: 31/03/2018

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## Deputy Course Manager Coventry Hearsall Golf Club



Coventry Hearsall Golf Club is a well-established 18 hole parkland golf course in the West Midlands, host to many professional and amateur events and a regular county match venue with a growing reputation for the finest greens in the region.

Reporting to the Course Manager the successful candidate will be responsible for supervising and motivating the green keeping team while producing and maintaining the highest standards of course presentation.

Key qualities required:

- Previous experience leading and motivating green keeping teams
- Educated to NVQ Level 3

- Spraying qualifications (PA1,2 & 6)
- Excellent communication skills
- A thorough knowledge of green keeping practices
- High standards and strongly motivated to achieve

A competitive remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate. Apply to: generalmanager@hearsallgolfclub.co.uk sending your CV and covering letter.

## Synthetic Installer — South West Greens



Southwest Greens are leaders in the design and installation of synthetic golf greens.

You will be required to design and install synthetic golf greens and practice facilities around the UK and ensure all installation works are to a high standard and are carried out effectively.

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You will have a full, clean driving licence and will be willing to travel, working around the UK Monday — Friday.

Some of the duties will include:

- Surface preparation by digger/hand
- Drainage installation
- Synthetic turf sizing
- Shaping & cutting
- Rolling of the surface

Please send your CV/covering letter to  
rachel@inscapes.org.uk



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## Golf Course Manager Bromborough Golf Club

An exciting opportunity to be part of Bromborough's parkland jewel

The successful candidate will have a good knowledge of modern green keeping and be able to demonstrate the following:

- Excellent management, motivation and communication skills
- Work within planned financial budgets
- Identify training and development needs to maximise the potential and contribution of each team member

- Qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent and hold relevant certification for the use of chain saw work and spraying of chemicals.

It would be advantageous if the successful candidate played golf to a reasonable standard

We offer a highly competitive salary

If you wish to be part of the team please

forward you CV to Alisdair Mackay

General Manager email:

gm@bromboroughgolfclub.org.uk

## Green staff required Golf Course St Leon-Rot



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- Experience of working in a large team with a focus on quality
- Full driving licence
- A high degree of flexibility and willing to work extra hours if required.

- Highly motivated and ability to work with own initiative

- Active golf player would be an advantage

Please send your application with your earliest starting date preferably via e-mail to Ms. Cordula Humbert: Bewerbung@gc-slr.de.

Golf Club St Leon-Rot, Opelstraße 30, 68789 St Leon-Rot



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An individual with a successful background in sales and technical support within the amenity turf and landscape industry and have a wide range of knowledge of turf management and maintenance practices with ideally, though not essential, holding BASIS and FACT qualifications. Full product training will be provided and be ongoing.

#### We are

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Rigby Taylor Ltd  
Unit 2, J4 Industrial Park, Doman Rd,  
Camberley, Surrey GU15 3LB  
Attention of Gareth Acteson,  
Regional Sales Director

Or email to:  
g.acteson@rigbytaylor.com  
Closing date: March 29th 2018





# Around the Globe

Ingvar Fjellman | Orust GK | Sweden

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

In my opinion the courses in Sweden have a very high standard. But our winter is pretty cold so the grass can't grow and sometimes we have problems with winter damage.

Members of the courses want high standards for the lowest price possible. Sweden is a long and thin country, with many different growth zones. Skåne in the south is open pretty much all year round, but in Norrland it could be snowy up until April.

In recent years the knowledge of greenkeepers is disappearing as they move into the sales sector, football and municipalities.

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

The course is located on a farm and it has a rich history and stories. The old written text is from 1430. In the area around the course there are older farmhouse and farms. There are also a lot of ancient monuments.

The golf course started in 1983 and the 18 holes were completed in 1987. The course is not long but has a seaside character, where you can see the sea from most of the holes. The influence of the wind has a large impact on the game. It is a totally different course when the wind is strong.

The club has 1,100 members and many guests in weekends and holidays.

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

I think we work more with preparation to winter, so the grass will survive the snow and cold weather. In September and October, we start to load the plant with energy for winter.

The maintenance is now more based on integrated pest management.

## What is the best part about living in Sweden?

In the west coast, where I live, it's the sea cliffs, and in the summer it's the sun. More generally, it's the nature, because the Swedish have the right to roam over the whole country.

## What is the worst?

November, when the frost, snow and ice mixed with rain starts.

## How does the weather affect your work?

With chemical restriction, you need to be more alert and have your attention on what and why you are doing things. You must learn what the effects are and try to find the 'right' way to minimise the fungicide attacks in the autumn and winter.

Dry periods are interrupted by heavy rain and this makes drainage more important, to get water away as fast as possible.

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

We have a lot of seabirds, moose, deer, pheasant and adders. Some courses in the country have problems with wild pigs.

## What is your club management structure like?

Ours is a members' club with annual general meetings, a board of directors, and myself and a clubhouse manager who report to the board.

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

Golf is increasing in popularity again, helped by Henrik Stenson's success and the fact golf is now an Olympic sport. Henrik does a fantastic job promoting himself and often visits junior tournaments.

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

When I was a board member on the Swedish Greenkeepers Association we had contact with BIGGA and I got to know some of the people there. I have been to Harrogate dozens of times.

Orust GK, Sweden



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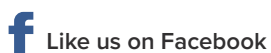
The unique Baroness production process means our cutting cylinders, bedknives and rotary blades set standards others struggle to match.

Whatever your turf conditions or type of grass, we have a mower that will give you amazing results and at a whole life cost you won't believe!



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[www.baronessuk.com](http://www.baronessuk.com)





## Get more with a Toro® Hybrid Mower

Reelmaster 5010-H for fairways



### **A greener approach to your fairways.** **Without compromising on quality of cut.**

With its patented PowerMatch™ technology, the Reelmaster 5010-H is the industry's first and only fairway mower with a true hybrid drive system. It only provides power to its cutting units when needed – saving you an average of 20% on fuel. What's more, its quality of cut delivers for everybody.

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