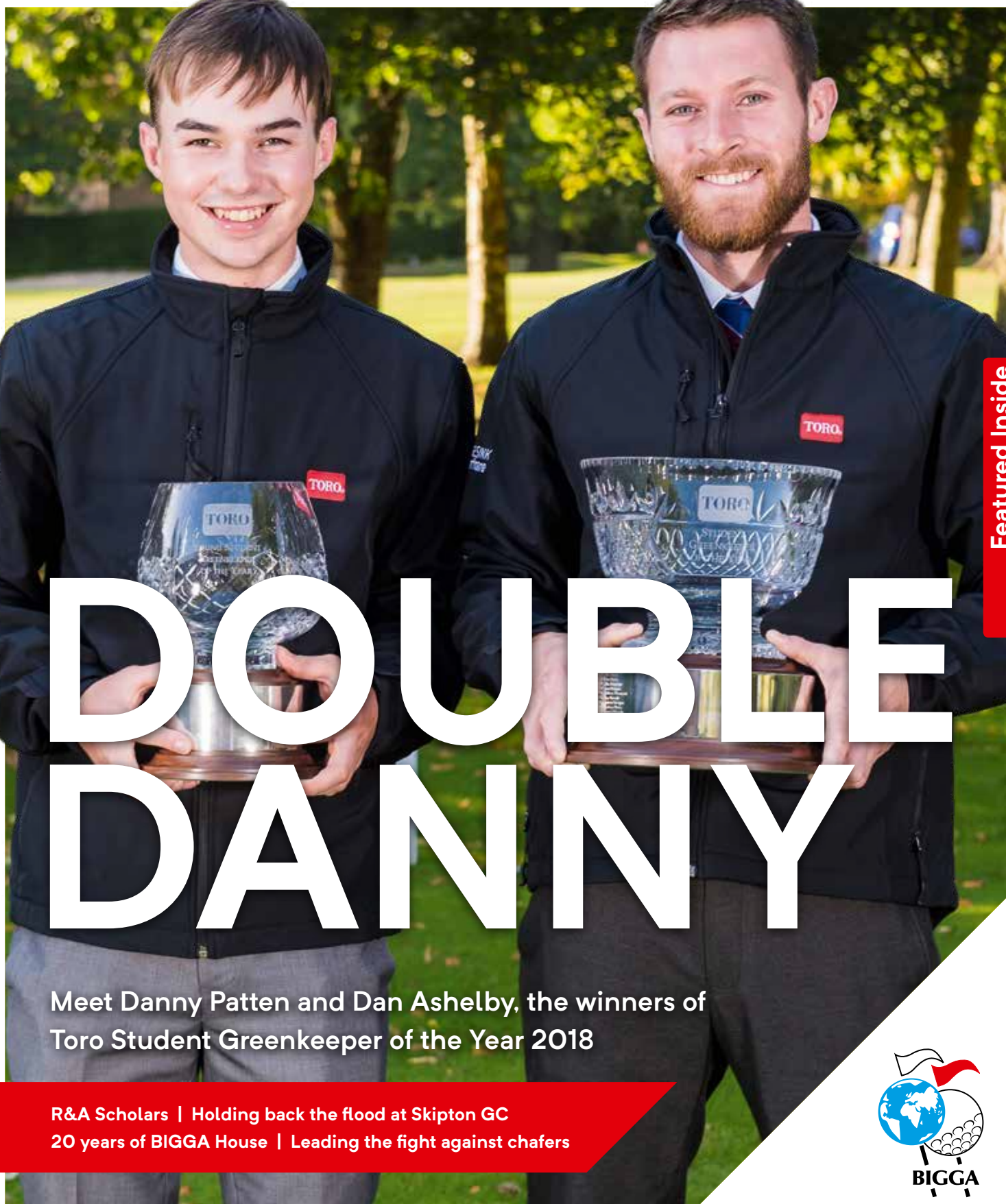




GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.50 | OCTOBER 2018



Featured Inside

DOUBLE DANNY

Meet Danny Patten and Dan Ashelby, the winners of
Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2018

R&A Scholars | Holding back the flood at Skipton GC
20 years of BIGGA House | Leading the fight against chafers



My favourite Jacobsen mower is the Eclipse 2. We use 15-blade cutting units, and the quality of cut is fantastic. We are able to easily adjust the frequency of cut with just one button; it's the perfect greens mower for the Ryder Cup.

*Alejandro Reyes, Golf and
Courses and Estate Manager,
Le Golf National*



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Greenkeepers Association Limited

Welcome



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

This is education time of year at the association.

The excellent Continue to Learn at BTME programme is enclosed with this magazine. Once again my colleague Sami Strutt has put together an outstanding set of conferences, forums, workshops and seminars and I know our membership will take up the opportunity in their droves.

During 2018's conference, nearly 7,000 hours of education were delivered in just four days. That is more than two hours for every golf facility in the UK as our industry plays its part in driving the game of golf forward.

If you're intending on visiting BTME, please take time to look through the brochure and book early to avoid disappointment.

Our cover story this month is another example of the commitment to education that runs through greenkeeping. Once again the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finals and finalists were inspirational.

Congratulations go to Daniel Ashelby and Danny Patten on their well-deserved wins.

Huge congratulations also to their nominating course managers, Jon McMullen and Steve Oultram. Mentorship is such an important part of professional development and I know both winners have been brilliantly guided to this point.

It is incredibly frustrating therefore to report that in recent weeks we have been



The Continue to Learn programme has launched this month

made aware of many course managers and head greenkeepers being put under ridiculous pressure and even removed from their employment. Many of these cases have been precipitated by the extreme weather this year, which has placed stress on turf and greenkeepers in equal measure.

There are always two sides to any story but the large number of cases that have been accepted by our legal helpline and have received full support shows that in lots of cases the employers are in the wrong.

Nearly all of these situations end up with a Settlement Agreement. Occasionally these agreements are an excellent way to encapsulate a genuine 'separation by mutual consent', but mainly it is the golf club effectively admitting they have mismanaged a situation and agreeing to make a payment to ensure no legal comeback. Unfortunately the nature of these agreements means the cases cannot be highlighted.

I believe that the standard of golf club management is improving; the steps taken on education in this area are paying off. But sadly the same is not true, in many cases, for overall governance in golf clubs.

Some committees still make unreasonable demands and exercise very poor judgment in staff management.

I read recently, in an excellent application for the BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show sponsored by Bernhard Company, of a greens chairman who after every round of golf would phone the course manager with a list of complaints.

The demands were unreasonable and this behaviour is effectively bullying, but the golf club were not prepared to stand up to the member in question and in the end the course manager resigned.

This is an extreme and, thankfully, rare situation, but variations on it are not. The next key focus for the golf industry has to be the modernisation of the governance structure in golf clubs and we are committed to pushing for that to happen.



Regulars

3 Welcome

6 Newsdesk

10 Across the Board

12 Ecology

16 YGC

18 9 Hole Heroes

20 Industry News

24 Membership

62 Insight

64 Around the Green

70 Buyer's Guide

72 **Careers:** L&D

76 **Careers:**
Apprentice Corner

80 **Careers:**
Recruitment

82 Around the Globe

From the Editor

The house that ambition built



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

Ambition is the cornerstone of everything that happens at BIGGA House.

The association exists because greenkeepers had the ambition to develop themselves through education and shared opportunity.

They also had a longstanding ambition to raise the profile of the greenkeeping industry, out of a belief that an understanding among golfers of what goes into the production of a course would lead to greater respect for those who create the playing surfaces they use.

And so it is that Greenkeeper International is compiled from a desk within a building that when it was opened 20 years ago, was a physical embodiment of that ambition.

Constructed using donations from members and with help from The R&A, BIGGA House was a statement that greenkeepers were here and we wouldn't be overlooked any longer in the 'grand scheme of things'.

This month we celebrate 20 years of BIGGA House and look back to the grand opening, when HRH Prince Andrew the Duke of York stood in our foyer and proclaimed the building officially open.

This was an exciting time for the association and in the years since we've expanded staffing levels and opened up new departments to keep up-to-date with the changing world we live in.

One month shy of the building's 20th anniversary and a group of ambitious greenkeepers, half of whom weren't even born when this building was opened, stood in the same foyer, nervously awaiting their chance to shine during the finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards.

They each did themselves proud and were a credit to their golf courses and the managers and college tutors who had inspired them to strive towards such achievements. Congratulations to everyone involved.

In the Careers section of this magazine you'll find four pages referring to Tom Sherreard, who has become the first person to graduate from the apprenticeship and earn the Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping.

Tom's success is the culmination of years of hard work from BIGGA, the Greenkeepers Training Committee and various education providers, working together with City & Guilds, to provide an enhanced opportunity to train as a greenkeeper while in employment. Here's hoping that many more trainees follow in Tom's footsteps in the years to come.

What will the next 20 years hold for BIGGA House? What will the industry look like in two decades' time?

If that culture of ambition continues, there can only be good things ahead.

Don't forget you can download the regular and dyslexia-friendly digital versions of Greenkeeper International from the resources section of the BIGGA website.

In this Issue

Our contributors

14 James Hutchinson

James' reputation for being a bit of a tree hugger is well-founded, but not as many realise that he is also an R&A Scholar. This month James recalls the most recent annual meeting of The R&A Scholarship Programme to shed some light and explain how you can get involved with this fantastic opportunity.



30 Ian Brown

Life's pretty tricky as it is for a course manager, without the Environment Agency stopping by to say that they'd like to build flood defences across two of your holes. It's to Ian's credit that he took the challenge in his stride as Skipton GC embraced the opportunity and oversaw the renovation of the Yorkshire Dales course.



36 Rob Clare

A former course manager at Skipton GC (see above), Rob is now in charge at Brough in East Yorkshire, where the club has somewhat unexpectedly found itself as the research industry's go-to destination for investigating methods to prevent chafer beetles and leatherjackets larvae from plaguing the golf course industry.



72 Alistair Beggs

Alistair has been at the STRI since 1991, joining as a trainee agronomist. In the years since he progressed through the ranks, becoming head of agronomy in 2013. He will be returning to BTME in 2019 to speak at the Links Forum and provides a preview of the debate he will undertake in the Careers section of this edition.



Featured this month

26 20 years at BIGGA House
Looking back at two decades of the association's Aldwark Manor headquarters

30 Holding back the flood at Skipton GC
How the club worked alongside the Environment Agency to secure its future

36 Leading the fight against chafers
How Brough became the epicentre of the fightback against chafer beetle larvae

40 Get everything right - ICL
A focus upon the latest research into ways to combat *Microdochium nivale*

42 TORO Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2018
Introducing the winners of BIGGA's spectacular annual student awards event

48 Can golf courses save the world? - Rigby Taylor
How turf technology can turn golf courses into carbon sinks, cleansing the atmosphere

52 Chart Hills GC - Topsport
How Chart Hills is utilising bunker liners to keep its famous assets in top condition

54 Drainage
How to recognise and rectify various drainage problems on your course

58 Sherriff Amenity
Meet the team working to develop the next generation of turf amenity products

62 Insight - Syngenta
The increasing role of forecasting in the fight against disease pressures

Photo calendar

With more than 200 entries to the BIGGA Photographic Competition this year, the judges are going to have a tough time picking the winner, and that's why we're asking BIGGA members to help out!

The entries have been narrowed down to our 24 favourites and BIGGA members have the opportunity to choose the final 12 that will contribute towards the annual BIGGA calendar.

Greenkeeper International Editor Karl Hansell said: "From South Carolina to Nairn Dunbar and featuring red deer, red foxes and a selfie with a pheasant, the entries we received for this year's competition just go to show what an incredibly varied and beautiful working environment greenkeepers occupy.

"So often we get dragged down by the pressures of work that we forget to look up and see the splendour that surrounds us and that's why the BIGGA Photographic Calendar is one of my most favourite BIGGA events of the year. BIGGA members are a lucky bunch, and golfers are even luckier as they get to enjoy these spectacular landscapes that we help prepare.

"Thank you to everyone who entered the competition, and good luck to all the finalists!"

Once BIGGA members have chosen their top 12 entries, golf

course photographer Alan Birch — who's idea it first was to stage a photographic competition among members — will choose the overall winner, with a prize of a GoPro camera up for grabs.

To see the 24 finalist and pick your favourite, head to www.bigga.org.uk or scan the QR code. Cast your vote by Wednesday 31 October 2018.

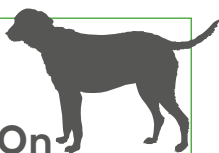


Here's a snapshot of this years top 24:





Dogs On Course



Name: Alfie

Age: 13

Owner: James Elmer

Course: Croham Hurst

Breed: Cocker Spaniel

Favourite treat: Cheese

Favourite spot on the course:
Anywhere where he can roll on his back.

Naughtiest moment:
He has a habit of rolling in fox mess on the course.

My dog is happiest when...
Riding along in the gator

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



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the association will once again take place during the week of BTME.

The meeting is an opportunity for BIGGA members to receive details of the latest association accounts and achievements throughout the year.

The AGM will be held in Harrogate Convention Centre's main auditorium on 22 January 2019 at 2.30pm.

CGCS salary guidelines

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries has recommended an increase of 2.3% based on the overall average of RPI/CPI and wage inflation percentages. The CGCS recommended rates of pay package are guidelines only and recognises that, as in many industries, some staff will earn substantially more, while others will earn less, depending on the standard of the golf club.

Superior results come from employing the most driven workforce, enabling staff to continuously learn and develop, making work more meaningful.



ICL Scholars revealed for Continue to Learn at BTME



ICL Scholar 2018 Michael Hughes

BIGGA and ICL have revealed the five successful recipients of the third ICL Continue to Learn scholarship.

The scholarship offers five BIGGA members the opportunity to attend Continue to Learn. Taking place at BTME 2019 in Harrogate, the programme features more than 250 hours of education, making it the most influential event in the turf management calendar in Europe.

Michael Hughes, deputy course manager at Scotsraig, was an ICL scholar in 2018. He said: "The scholarship was so valuable for me because I knew my attendance was not in our budget for this year. What ICL and BIGGA do for anyone in my position is just priceless. Just those few days in Harrogate benefit your career immensely because you take so much away from them."

The scholarship, worth

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

The successful BIGGA members are: Blair Shearer, assistant greenkeeper, Dunbar; Dan Dooley, greenkeeper, Mount Murray; David Stewart, deputy head greenkeeper, Walmley; Jorge Manso, deputy head greenkeeper, Coombe Wood; Andrew Brown, course manager, Boundary Lakes.

Ed Carter, UK sales and development manager for ICL, said: "We are delighted to be involved with the scholarship for the third year running. The feedback we received from scholars has been excellent and we hope those chosen for 2019 get as much out of it as the previous 10 did."

Greenkeeping award



A career change in his early 40s has led to trainee greenkeeper Gregg Hood winning SRUC Elmwood's annual John Deere HNC Student of the Year Award, sponsored by John Deere and Scottish turf machinery dealer Double A.

Born and bred in Glasgow, Gregg had a career as a qualified accountant and then a mortgage broker before becoming a greenkeeper at the age of 42.

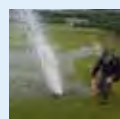
"It was one of those life-changing decisions I just had to make," he said. "My partner Lisa was very supportive, so I finally left work in June 2017 and applied to the SRUC.

"We agreed that the HNC in Golf Course Management would be the best entry level course for me, combined with volunteering at St Andrews Links to get some practical experience."

Gregg has now secured a seasonal placement at St Andrews until 2017 and is hoping to secure a permanent placement if one arises.

Tweet of the month

@BIGGALtd



Dan Dooley

@dandooley7



Alongside you all. Massive thank you to @BIGGALtd @ToroGolf and @ReesinkTurfcare for putting on the competition and organising the last couple of days #ToroStudentGreenkeeperAwards #manxgreenkeeper #mountmurraygolf

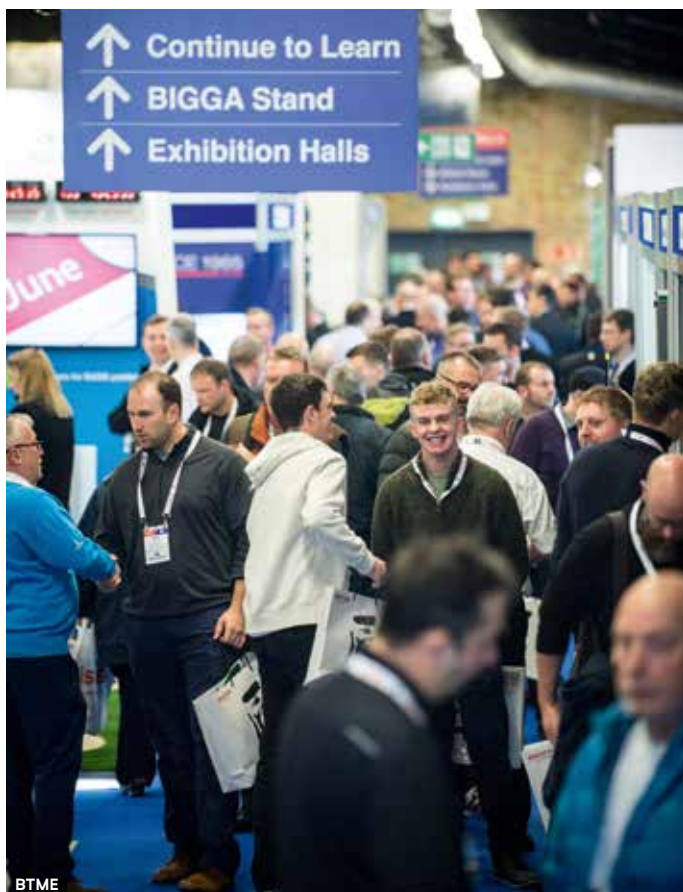
Download the BTME app today

Get the BTME app today for all the latest news and events updates for BTME 2019.

Available now in the App store and on Google Play.



Register now for BTME 2019



Registration has opened for BTME 2019, with BIGGA members encouraged to get on the guest list as soon as possible.

Last year, 50% of Continue to Learn workshops and seminars sold out within five weeks of registration opening, so the time is now to get involved.

BTME will feature over 250 hours of education including the Turf Managers' Conference and Young Greenkeepers' Conference.

For the first time, forums dedicated to links golf, ecology and the environment and a conference for those who are in deputy roles and looking to make the transition into management, will also form a part of the programme.

BTME itself has also evolved, with 2019 seeing the launch of a new hall layout that will expand the size of the exhibition by up to 25%.

Over 150 exhibitors showcasing the latest products and innovations will offer unrivalled networking opportunities and the chance to discover what's happening at the cutting edge of the greenkeeping industry.

Last year's exhibition saw nearly 5,000 turf managers, golf club owners, managers and industry decision-makers pack in to the Harrogate Convention Centre.

With such demand, it's important that you're able to get into the halls as quickly as possible and that's why visitor registration has now opened. Early registration enables you to skip the queues, improving your experience of Europe's largest turf management exhibition."

Newsdesk

Time to
nominate
somebody
for the...

BIGGA Awards

**The BIGGA Awards
are back and they're
better than ever...**

With all new awards and prizes, the BIGGA Awards will be the centrepiece of the BTME Welcome Celebration sponsored by Jacobsen.

The categories

Outstanding Contribution of the Year
sponsored by Jacobsen

Championship Performance of the Year
sponsored by Rigby Taylor

Greenkeeping Project of the Year
sponsored by Baroness

**Head to the BIGGA website to make
your nominations right now.**





Across the Board

Les Howkins MG | BIGGA Chairman | The Richmond Golf Club

The summer has been and gone and we roll into autumn with leaves dropping, higher disease pressure, worms popping up, insect damage and let's not forget drought damaged fairways that still haven't recovered! Who would be a greenkeeper?

Well I would. I love it – always have and hopefully always will.

There is no doubting that 2018 has been one of, if not the, toughest in living greenkeepers' memory.

But is it not the ever-changing challenge that makes it interesting? Maybe you disagree, but I could think of nothing worse than doing the same thing year after year.

I think using our skills and underpinning knowledge to battle the elements and try to meet and exceed our golfer expectations is one of the best parts of the job.

I can hear the cries of "my golfers' expectations are unreasonable" and you're probably right. But what can we do about it?

BTME and Continue to Learn 2019 are just around the corner and the Continue to Learn brochure is enclosed with this magazine. I know it's not the first time I have said this, but take a good look at the brochure. Consider the gaps in your own skillset and choose a workshop or seminar that will help.

Over the years we have supplemented our turf and soil-related education with more management-style training. Often it is these management-style courses that are the slowest to be booked up and I appreciate

this may be because the topic is something less attractive to many greenkeepers, yet that is exactly the reason we should be taking more advantage of this opportunity for personal development.

So, back to my point about golfer expectation. We all know we can only do so much with the budget and resources that we are given. You can't buy 40 tonnes of dressing with the budget for 20, it is simple maths.

What we can do, however, is learn to manage upwards better. We can communicate better, produce a really strong course policy document or prove your points with solid facts like a man-hour study. The list goes on.

This type of training is available so use it and you will find it almost certainly helps on a daily basis.

Going back to summer and the trail of dead, burnt, parched grass it has left. We have decided to communicate directly to clubs, unions and other organisations about the challenges it has posed.

A massive amount of work is going to be required to ensure full turf coverage going in to the winter. Hopefully the message we send as an association will back up your requests for more resources to be made available to sort the problems out.

Well done to the two Dans for winning their respective categories at the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards. The level of passion shown by the finalists was very refreshing and I hope they take the experience back to their clubs and perhaps even inspire



Les Howkins MG and Ben Hunter

their colleagues on to bigger and better things.

Back at work I have broken in a new deputy over the last eight weeks. When I say 'broken in', I mean I more or less just gave him the keys as I attended various meetings around the country and left him to it. Ben Hunter, previously of The Roehampton Club has fitted in well and his wife and little boy are settling in to life as part of the Richmond family.

I'm looking forward to January and BTME 2019. As you will all now be well aware, big changes are afoot for the layout of the halls. As a board we made a choice back in November 2017 to make some big changes. These were the culmination of consistent growth over the previous six years and the need to find more usable space to ensure all the companies that wanted to exhibit were able to. The result is a show with up to 25% more show space. This gives all our members and show visitors the opportunity to see more under one roof and cements BTME as the biggest golf and turf show outside the USA.

Happy leaf blowing!

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.



JOHN DEERE



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



Ecology Roundup

GI Ecology
sponsored by
Rigby Taylor



James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)

I'm going to stick my neck out here and say that it has not been the best season for wildflowers.

This is because it stopped raining around May and then didn't rain again until September. Not ideal growing conditions for wildflowers in the United Kingdom.

However, the pendulum of seasonal nature has now swung in favour of our more damp-loving organisms – mushrooms! Fungi has gone bananas recently and can be found on almost every golf course in the land.

Take a look at this this firework from West Linton (top right)! Whether you like them or not, they're great to see and our grasses wouldn't grow very well without them!

Also, don't eat them unless you're 100% sure you can, otherwise I may be talking to you via a seance.

I've no doubt mentioned this before, but I am constantly amazed at BIGGA members' talents, with the ability to spot wildlife and to record their goings-on too.

Simon Pyett kept us on the edge of our sofas with his bi-weekly updates on the family of swallows living in the first tee hut at Halesworth (middle). Turns out they all fledged and are possibly now flying through Morocco on their way to South Africa as we speak.

Royal St Barbara's harvest of sugary gold is ready (background). Their bees worked overtime to produce jars of scrumptious honey, so if you fancy some, head over to the clubhouse and treat yourself.

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



Top to bottom: Mushrooms at West Lincs; a nest of swallows at Halesworth; a kestrel pictured at Purdis Heath
Background: The honey harvest at Royal St Barbara's



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Shaun Bakker, General Manager Chart Hills Golf Club

"The improvements we've seen have been remarkable. We suffer significant wash through heavy rain here at Chart Hill and we are also situated on heavy clay. However, the new lining has just improved the bunkers no end."

Neil Lauder, Golf Course Manager



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Chart Hills Golf Club

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An introduction to the R&A Scholarship

James Hutchinson, BIGGA

R&A Scholars



You may have heard a little about The R&A's Scholarship scheme, but what exactly is it? What are the benefits and how can you get involved?

BIGGA's James Hutchinson is a R&A Scholar and Gold Badge Holder and recalled a recent meeting at The Temple in Berkshire, where the scholars gathered for a day of education.

Greenkeeping scholars gathered from far and wide at Temple to learn, play golf and to exchange methods of maintaining their courses for the better.

Rob Phillips, Oaklands College greenkeeping assessor, compered the day with his usual aplomb and ran the event seamlessly. It has to be said that any type of shindig such as this requires a calm head at the helm and Rob kept us all in check with his dry comedy and coolness.

Rob gave us a few wise words from the day and the scholarship, saying: "Some of our scholars travelled far and wide to be with us, none more so than Jon Wall, who flew in all the way from Vietnam!

"The R&A Scholarship is an important recognition of achievement within the greenkeeping industry for all who receive it and it's important to note that there are only 320 scholars worldwide. There is no doubt that it is internationally recognised by employers and the industry alike and adds real gravitas to the CVs of those in possession of it. Our continued thanks go to both Paul Miller and Wendy Cole who continue to drive the programme all over the world."

Twenty scholars enjoyed a morning of education of the highest order, beginning with a

talk by Wendy Cole, The R&A's manager for sustainability. Wendy's passion and dedication towards the success of the scholarship is admirable and without her help and guidance I'm sure it wouldn't be where it is today.

Wendy said: "Sustainability is one of the seven strategic pillars of The R&A. We believe that in order for golf courses to be maintained in a sustainable manner, we need highly qualified greenkeepers and course managers."

The R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship Programme was established in 2004 to support greenkeepers studying higher level qualifications at SRUC Elmwood and Myerscough College.

The R&A has now invested over £1.1 million in the programme since its inception, with 320 students from 30 different countries having received R&A Scholarships.

In addition to a financial contribution towards their education, the scholarship provides added value opportunities such as:

- Working on the greenkeeping teams at The Open, the RICOH Women's British Open, The Amateur, the Ladies' British Open Amateur, the Girls' British Open Amateur, the French Open, the Singapore Open, the Ryder Cup



and the Nedbank Challenge in South Africa

- A study visit to Askernish Golf Club which provides a great insight into the environmental and community value of golf
- Great networking and employment opportunities, with scholars in course manager positions bringing other scholars onto their team.

The R&A also supports education programmes provided by the African Turf Academy in South Africa, the Italian Golf Federation and the Asian Golf Industry Federation's (AGIF) greenkeeping certificate.

Wendy added: "We continue to maintain contact with many of our scholarship alumni and they are adding value to the scholarship programme through the setting up of their own Facebook page and in holding this education and networking event here at Temple.

Next to take the podium was Dr Andy Owen, ICL's international technical manager and R&A Gold Badge holder, who gave us a brilliant insight into his pathogen and disease research within fine turf. Andy has long been considered a leading light by those in the know and his work has led to many problems being solved both here and abroad.

Temple Course Manager Ben Kebby gave us a talk on the management and maintenance of the course along with the general history of the site, including the fact the Knights Templar once owned the land where the course lies.

If you're just heading into higher education this year, or maybe entering your second, third or last year and you haven't thought about applying to become an R&A Scholar then what are you waiting for?

Look at all that's on offer for the successful candidate — Wendy has already mentioned the benefits but I reckon all us scholars will tell you the same thing if asked what we get out of it: pride.

I'll leave that there.

Left to right:

Jon Gamble; Ben Kebby; Rob Phillips; Andy Owen; Gary Walters; Wendy Cole; Joshua Thomason; Ian Nichols; Kristian Summerfield; Greg Fitzmaurice; Jon Wall; Jack Glover; Sam Reid; Aaron Winfield; Paul Miller; Tom Coulson; James Hutchinson





YGC

Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Lyle Davidson | Deputy Head Greenkeeper | The Carrick on Loch Lomond

BIGGA offers a wide range of education to its members to help them progress in their careers.

With the Future Turf Managers' Initiative application deadline fast approaching on 12 October, there's an opportunity for any young, ambitious greenkeepers who are looking to take advantage of a unique programme designed to prepare the next generation of head greenkeepers and course managers.

FTMI is an intense three days, but having been invited to attend the event this year, I can assure you that you will find those days hugely rewarding. Some of the topics we covered discussed 'crucial conversations', creating budgets and developing your communications skills.

The course is hugely beneficial, not only for the skills you learn from some of the best in the industry, but also because it removes you from your natural comfort zone, a place where stress and anxiety are minimal, where we know what's coming next and can

plan accordingly.

There's nothing wrong with being in your comfort zone and it only becomes a negative when people get too comfortable and start holding themselves back instead of challenging themselves to learn, grow and try new things.

One of the reasons we are reluctant to try new things is due to a fear of failure and out on the course any mistake you make can certainly prove costly.

But when it comes to our own personal development, especially relatively early in your career when you have the potential to achieve anything you choose, the opportunity to leave their comfort zone and try something new challenges and motivates the delegates to achieve more.

It also provides them with the knowledge and skills to embrace the future and take control of their careers.

For this reason, I couldn't encourage anyone highly enough to allocate themselves some time to work on an application for the FTMI programme that does themselves justice.

FTMI is hugely popular and is spreading around the globe, with other events being held as far away as Australia and New Zealand. From what we hear and through my own experiences, the course has clearly influenced a large number of the participants who have progressed their careers since being involved with FTMI.

Personally, the confidence that the programme has instilled in me is remarkable. I have learned fantastic skills that will prepare me for the interview process when the time comes, totally transformed my CV and created friendships from what was a great experience and a privilege to be involved in.

I believe in the future, when I look back on my career, FTMI will prove to be one of the most defining moments in my journey, due to the impact it's had on me.





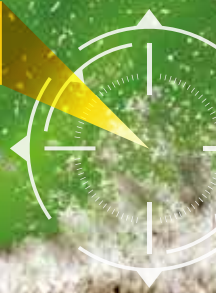
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9hole heroes

Celebrating BIGGA's nine-hole greenkeepers

Paul Barrow | Flixton Golf Club

1. What is your job title?

Head greenkeeper

2. How long have you worked in the industry?

Around 10 years.

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

It is just as much of a challenge as working on a 18-hole golf course and our members and staff are just as passionate about the course as anyone else.

Flixton is a 125-year-old parkland course close to Manchester and so it has a long and proud history.

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

Weather is the most difficult part. If any greenkeeper could predict the weather our lives would be very easy and we would all be rich.

5. How many staff do you have?

There are two of us, myself and Deputy Head Greenkeeper Anthony Cox.

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

We have a suitable budget for repairing machinery and we are

trying to get money together to purchase some new items.

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

We have a healthy budget for chemicals. Aitkens is our main supplier.

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

A golfer once said to me "I don't trust stripes on a golf course", which was pretty odd.

9. What is the best tip you have received?

Not so much a tip, but I always say golfers hole great putts, but we create them.

Images of Flixton GC throughout the year courtesy of @FlixtonGC1893



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For Earth, For Life
Kubota

Sandy takes top spot at St Andrews Links



Sandy Reid has been appointed director of greenkeeping at St Andrews Links

Carnoustie Links Superintendent Sandy Reid has been appointed director of greenkeeping at St Andrews Links.

Sandy has been links superintendent at Carnoustie Golf Links since 2012 and will replace Gordon Moir when he retires at the end of December 2018.

Sandy said: "I am extremely honoured and excited to be joining the hard working and dedicated team at the Home of Golf. St Andrews Links is the pre-eminent public golf complex in the world and I hope to play a small part in ensuring it continues to deliver excellence to all golfers and visitors who come to the Home of Golf."

Sandy originally hails from Blair Atholl and trained at Elmwood College before starting his career at Letham Grange. He joined Carnoustie Golf Links in 1997, becoming head greenkeeper of the Championship Course in 2005.

Over the last decade St Andrews Links has continued to make major investments in its facilities and

services. In addition to maintaining seven public courses, St Andrews Links is now home to three clubhouses, five shops and the Golf Academy. It employs over 400 people in the high season with almost 230,000 rounds of golf played on the six 18-hole courses in 2017.

St Andrews Links Chief Executive Euan Loudon said: "We are delighted to welcome Sandy to the Home of Golf. He has an outstanding track record at Carnoustie Golf Links, as evidenced by the wonderful condition of the Championship Course for The 147th Open Championship this summer.

"Sandy has a great deal of experience operating within a multi-faceted golf venue such as ours and shares our commitment to delivering unique and memorable experiences to every golfer. He is passionate about the game and is committed to delivering the highest quality results in golf course maintenance."

Fatality fine for club

A golf club has been fined £75,000 after it was found guilty of three health and safety breaches that led to a golf course manager being killed by a falling branch.

Douglas Johnstone, 56, suffered a fatal brain injury while working at Hinckley in December 2013. At the time of the incident he was working alone and he was not wearing a safety helmet.

The jury delivered unanimous guilty verdicts on all three counts after seven hours of deliberation and the club has been ordered to pay £75,000 and an additional £75,000 in costs.

Executive Member for Environmental Services at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Councillor Kevin Morrell, said: "Our thoughts at this time go out to the family, friends and colleagues of Douglas Johnstone who tragically lost his life in December 2013.

"This case serves as a reminder to any organisation run by volunteers that they have the same health and safety responsibilities to their employees as any other business.

"Employees are entitled to be safe at work whoever they work for and the protection and safety of all employees should be paramount to every employer, no matter their position in the organisation's hierarchy."

Council officers were concerned that the golf club had insufficient and inadequate risk assessments and safe working systems in place for its employees at the time of the accident. On sentencing, the judge made particular comment that it was apparent that at the time of the incident there were almost no systems in place and nobody responsible to deal with health and safety.

Policy documents held by the club were essentially non-existent and no document of any kind existed to deal with the dangers posed by trees, particularly damaged or fallen ones.

It appeared the club's vision in appointing Mr Johnstone was to be able to delegate health and safety responsibilities to him. However, with the club not checking his qualifications or experience and in the absence of any supervision of his performance, this was not done correctly, with tragic consequences.

Lighting rig launched for golf



MLR, the international sports supplementary lighting business, has launched a new lighting rig specifically designed for golf courses – the first of its kind in the sports turf industry.

The 'Orn' was unveiled at STRI's Research Day during September.

General Manager Hermann Sather said: "MLR is proud to launch the world's first supplementary lighting rig designed specifically for golf.

There's a great deal of pressure on greenkeepers to produce quality surfaces all year round and the Orn can be a crucial weapon in that battle."

The Orn will be distributed in the UK by Bernhard and Company and Director Steve Nixon said: "This is an exciting time for Bernhard. We are bringing a product that will revolutionise the way turf professionals manage difficult growth areas."

British Sugar Topsoil video



A three-minute video explaining the origin of British Sugar TOPSOIL products, the manufacturing process and the stringent analysis and testing the products undergo, is available on the company's relaunched website at www.bstopsoil.co.uk.

Commissioned by National TOPSOIL Manager Andy Spetch, who appears in the film alongside some of his colleagues, the video gives a bird's eye view of parent company British Sugar's

Wissington sugar factory in Norfolk and contains fascinating aerial footage of the lagoons that capture the prime arable soils washed off the sugar beet after it arrives at British Sugar's factories.

Andy said: "I'm not a natural performer but as I've been involved with British Sugar TOPSOIL from the very start, over 20 years ago, I was persuaded that I ought to be the one fronting it and communicating the passion the whole team has for the business."

Rain Bird Europe

Matt Gilks has been appointed by Rain Bird Europe as golf sales specialist for the UK&I.

Closely involved in golf course irrigation throughout his career, Matt joins Rain Bird from Farol, where he specialised in sales to golf sector customers. Prior to that, his roles at The Belfry and MJ Abbott were focused on water resources and construction.

Matt said: "Irrigation is my specialism and having been involved with every aspect of golf course systems, from construction to water management, I understand the challenges golf clubs face. I'm delighted to join the Rain Bird team. I'll be supporting clubs with their existing systems alongside Rain Bird's expert technical team to ensure irrigation systems are running at their most efficient."

ICL appointment

ICL Turf & Landscape has appointed Andrew Pledger as technical area sales manager covering the south east of England including Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Kent and East London.

A previous Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year in 2002, Andrew studied at the University of Massachusetts before embarking on a number of greenkeeping roles, including deputy course manager at The Wilderness Club and deputy superintendent at The Hertfordshire. He then spent six years as head greenkeeper at Frinton before moving to Chelmsford as course manager – a position he held for seven years.

1st Products

Reesink Turfcare has secured the exclusive UK distribution rights for a specialist range of tractor mounted aeration equipment for the American-based company 1st Products.

Steven Haynes, sales manager for TYM, which Reesink also distributes and which fit the 1st Products range, said: "We've introduced three core product lines back in the UK from 1st Products, having been previously imported by Mumby Machinery."

The range includes the AERA-Vator, the AGRI-Vator and the VC Verti-Cutter.

SALTEX 2018 Preview



The future's bright

Free advice will be on offer at the Job Clinic, located on the IOG Hub. Industry expert Frank Newberry will be hosting 15-minute one-to-one sessions covering CV writing to interview techniques. To book an appointment with Frank, visitors are advised to go to the IOG information desk on the IOG Hub as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Learning LIVE 2018

The free-to-attend SALTEX seminars take place in four purpose-built theatres around the exhibition floor and are CPD-accredited. Highlights include a panel debate featuring Professor Colin Fleming (Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute), Neil Stubley (AELTC), Tony Bell (Middlesbrough FC and Andy Gray (Southampton FC), who will all discuss a chemical-free alternative to clean up your soil.

On day two Ted Mitchell and Corin Palmer will explain how the RFU and Premiership Rugby are raising the standards of groundsmanship, while Andy McKay (Sussex CCC), Gary Barwell (Warwickshire CCC) and Chris Wood (ECB) will also explain how to prepare a cricket wicket to world class standards.

Head to www.iogsaltex.com to check out the full programme.

SALTEX 2018 is free to attend. To register your attendance and beat the queues visit www.iogsaltex.com

Follow SALTEX on Twitter @IOG_SALTEX and Facebook — www.facebook.com/IOGSALTEX

The annual SALTEX exhibition returns to the NEC in Birmingham on 31 October and 1 November with the exhibition taking place across three halls.

SALTEX is the longest-standing event of its kind in the world and this year will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of its first staging in 1938.

This year over 300 exhibitors and around 9,000 visitors will attend the event, which is open to those working in a wide range of turf management industries, including golf greenkeepers.

Inventions and innovation

New for 2018, The Innovation Hub will showcase the very latest groundscare ingenuity in a new area on the show floor that is dedicated to innovation and new concepts in grounds management.

Visitors can expect to learn from industry experts and those at the forefront of new groundscare innovations and listen to research and trial work findings. Furthermore, key speakers will take to the stage to discuss and explore current groundscare trends such as cordless and environmentally friendly equipment, robotics, GPS control machinery, pesticide alternatives, pitch lighting, watering systems and monitoring systems.

The Innovation Hub will also play host to the SALTEX 2018 Innovation Award ceremony.

Improve your soil biology

With prolonged heat and drought conditions challenging turf managers this year, SALTEX attendees will no doubt welcome the chance to have their soil profile assessed. The Pathology & Soil Science LIVE area will be located on the IOG Hub (stand number C180) from 11am to 1pm each day and will allow visitors to look in detail at the symptoms of some common turfgrass fungal disease problems, as infected plants are magnified and displayed on a large screen. Visitors are welcome to bring in their own samples to discover how they can be improved.

See the latest products in action

Outdoor demonstrations will be taking place on a grass area directly outside the SALTEX halls 6,7 and 8.



Outdoor demonstrations

Highlights

EGO

The pioneer of outdoor power technology will show groundscape professionals how you can 'get the power of petrol, minus the petrol'.

Barenbrug

Visitors will learn how some of the best-known stadiums rely on RPR Stadium and how Barnbrug Yellow Jacket Water Manager can solve challenges on links courses.

BASIS points

BASIS members will be able to collect up to 12 CPD points at this year's two-day SALTEX event.

Sherriff Amenity

The turf and amenity suppliers have announced the launch of two new apps, which are set to increase efficiency and improve operations for sports turf managers.

Etesia

Etesia will launch two Attila pedestrian brushcutter models at SALTEX.

Pellenc

Pellenc will launch a range of battery-powered hand tools, to be distributed in the UK and Ireland exclusively by Etesia UK. Full details are being kept under wraps.

ICL

ICL will be focusing upon Ecoplug Max, a patented product for tree stump control. Visitors to the stand will also benefit from learning more about the Turf Rewards programme.

Limagrain UK

One of the world's largest seed companies, Limagrain UK will be showcasing its range of grass seed mixtures, including the market leading MM60 and MM50.



EGO



Pellenc



Soil analysis on the IOG stand

RANSOMES JACOBSEN CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED EQUIPMENT



I've been very impressed with all of my CPO machines. They arrived looking as new, and I can't fault the service I have received. You would never think they were refurbished machines if it wasn't for the sticker!

– Andy Kane, Course Manager at Bushey Hall Golf Club

As good as new, at a great price!

Factory Reworked

Ransomes Jacobsen's Certified Pre-Owned equipment is reworked at our Ipswich, UK, manufacturing facility.

Factory Inspected

Every CPO machine is given an exhaustive multi-point inspection to ensure you get the highest-quality machine possible.

Factory Backed

All CPO equipment comes with a one year factory warranty (6 months all-inclusive, followed by 6 months parts only), giving you peace of mind that your investment is fully protected.

To view all of our currently available CPO machinery, visit: www.ransomestrader.com





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Full Members Personal
Accident Helpline
0121 698 8046 / 43

Greenkeepers
Legal Assistance
0808 181 9194

Lifestyle Counselling
Helpline
0333 000 2082

BTME

Pre-registration for BTME
2019 is now open at
btme.org.uk

Membership

Message to the membership

Tracey Maddison, head of membership services

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to write to you in this issue of Greenkeeper International.

There's a lot to share with you, but before I do I just want to comment on a posting made in the BIGGA Facebook group.

At a time when life and work can be challenging, a lot of sharing and increasing examples of frustrations are evident, (sharing is good, though remember #itsokaytotalk), a new member to BIGGA and the industry has posted an introductory post in this group.

The support he has received is incredible and I think typical of this remarkable industry we work in.

At the time of writing he has 93

likes and over 18 comments of support, which is fantastic.

Thank you for making him feel welcome and offering encouragement. Don't get me wrong, this isn't a surprise to me, but it lifted me to read all the encouraging and positive posts.

There is an argument that social media can be misunderstood. We're all unique human beings who are not identical in our thinking, writing and interpretation. Our punctuation, spelling and tone can also be misunderstood and you may remember the book Eats, Shoots and Leaves?

Left to right:
Kerry Phillips,
Rachael Duffy,
Sandra Raper and
Tracey Maddison

Left to right: The
membership
administration team of
Gil Mason and Elaine
Jones





For me, you can't beat a good old fac-to-face natter, chinwag, talk, blether, whatever you want to call it and to see somebody's gestures and look them in the eye. If you need a good catch up with your mates don't put it off, BIGGA has lots of section and region events going on throughout the year to give you a chance to get together with other people just like you.

There are lots of media campaigns going on right now to raise awareness of mental health in the workplace. I hear many moving stories of greenkeepers helping each other, providing a good listening ear and if appropriate a touch of advice. This got me thinking if we could take one day of the week and join in and support the #MindYourMates campaign, where we check on a mate and make sure all is ok, which day would it be? I think I'll put that one out as a poll on social media!

As we find ourselves well into the middle of autumn and dealing with the challenges that brings, for us here at BIGGA House, your Board continues the important work of developing our profile and presence in accordance with the BIGGA strategic plan.

You may have noticed some job title changes for a few of us, made out of a desire to enhance BIGGA's commitment to you, the member, as we grow and develop as a professional membership association.

Our membership administration team of Elaine Jones and Gil Mason continues to work tirelessly to create and issue renewal notices, reminders and enrol new members every day.

This gives us the opportunity to increase our focus to the membership services side of things. May I therefore introduce you to the new Membership Services Team.

With myself as 'head' of the team and with the administration support of Rachael Duffy, it's our job to work closely with the regional team of John Young (Scotland and Northern Ireland), Sandra Raper (Northern), Roger Butler (Central England), Tracey Walker (South West and South Wales), Kerry Phillips and Clive Osgood (South East) and James Hutchinson (ecology and sustainability) to shape a plan to help you get the most from your membership of BIGGA.

Over the coming months we intend to engage you more directly as we set about ensuring you're aware of the benefits and support that comes from BIGGA membership.

You will start to notice the regional administrators will now be known as membership services managers, Rachael will be known as membership and events manager and I will be head of membership services, collectively known as the Membership Services Team.

We look forward to working more closely with you to highlight the benefits and support available to you as a member of BIGGA.

Our contact details are listed throughout this magazine, if you need anything just let us know.

Welcome new members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Jonny Sloan, Lambeg Golf Club, GK; **Gareth McGregor**, The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses, AGK; **Scott McKnight**, Stirling Golf Club, DCM; **Andrew Marshall**, Fairways GM Ltd (Kinross), ED; **John Morton**, Fairways GM Ltd (Kinross), ED; **Kyle McClung**, The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses, GK; **Stuart Cruickshank**, Gledoch Golf Club, CM; **Ewan Smith**, Kilsplindie Golf Club, GK; **Gordon Burns**, Kilsplindie Golf Club, GK; **Neil Wilson**, Machrihanish Golf, AGK; **Dave Gibson**, Fairways Sportsground, ED; **Michael James**, Wiedenmann (UK) Ltd, ED

Northern

Matthew Pallas, Ravensworth Golf Club, GK; **Ryan Blemings**, South Moor Golf Club, GK; **Stuart Morrison**, Ravensworth Golf Club, HGK; **Lee Williams**, PitchWorks, A; **Garry Lacy**, Ashton-in-Makerfield Golf Club, A; **Jamie Williams**, Bolton Golf Club, APP; **Michael Tunstall**, Bolton Old Links Golf Club, APP; **Phillip Mooney**, Bramhall Golf Club, APP; **Patrick Haslam**, Clitheroe Golf Club, APP; **Joe Donlevy**, Haydock Park Golf Club, APP; **Jack Maney**, Hazel Grove Golf Club, APP; **Lee Dale**, Hazel Grove Golf Club, APP; **Lewis Phoenix**, Hazel Grove Golf Club, APP; **Jordan Murphy**, Longridge Golf Club, APP; **Joseph Wilby**, Lytham Green Drive Golf Club, APP; **Luke Hinks**, Reddish Vale Golf Club, APP; **Gareth Maznyzenko**, Stamford Golf Club, AGK; **Dave Hird**, Leasowe Golf Club, CM; **Kevin Robinson**, Ashton-in-Makerfield Golf Club, DHGK; **Alan Carson**, Leasowe Golf Club, DHGK; **Michael McGrail**, Ashton-in-Makerfield Golf Club, GK; **Nicholas Swift**, Shrigley Hall Hotel & CC, GK; **Simon Marsden**, Poulton-le-Fylde Golf Club, HGK; **John Hinman**, Stamford Golf Club, HGK; **Stephen Hopkins**, Stand Golf Club, HGK; **Adam Flaherty**, Hickleton Golf Club, APP; **Ryan Fiander**, Lees Hall Golf Club, APP; **Kieran Doyle**, Rotherham Golf Club, APP; **Sophie Holman**, Rotherham Golf Club, APP; **Ryan Brown**, Lindrick Golf Club, AGK; **Robert Horner**, Waltham Windmill Golf Club, AGK; **James Dance**, Lindrick Golf Club, GK; **Stephen Wells**, Lindrick Golf Club, GK; **Lewis Shaw**, Silkstone Golf Club, GK; **Thomas Todd**, Ganton Golf Club, APP; **Joe Fridlington**, West Bradford Golf Club, APP; **Jonathan Glynn**, Whitwood Golf Club, GK

Central England

Joseph Blackett, Huntswood Golf Club, AGK; **Sam Fuller**, Drayton Park Golf Club (Abingdon), GK; **Adam Parker**, Belton Park Golf Club, APP; **Carl Kettle**, Belton Park Golf Club, APP; **Luke Saunders**, Greatham Valley Golf Club, APP; **Joshua Sampson**, Delapre Golf Complex, AGK; **Joseph Carr**, Burghley Park Golf Club, APP; **Grace Townsend**, British Sugar TOPSOIL, ED; **Kim Campton**, British Sugar TOPSOIL, ED; **Natalie Gudgeon**, British Sugar TOPSOIL, ED; **Ronaldo Carion**, British Sugar TOPSOIL, ED; **Thomas Bright**, Woburn Golf & Country Club, APP; **Tom Bromfield**, Trentham Golf Club Ltd, APP; **Jack Clugston**, Shirley Golf Club, AGK; **Ben Gibson**, Lichfield Golf and Country Club, CM

South West & South Wales

Matthew Quinn, Bradley Park Golf Course, APP; **Sefton Jones**, Goodwood Club Ltd (The), APP; **Mason Merrick**, Moors Valley Golf Course/Mack Trading UK Ltd, APP; **Kaine Race-Oak**, Boundary Lakes Golf Club, AGK; **Tim Selby**, Remedy Oak Golf Club, M; **Craig Joslin**, Chippenham Golf Club, AGK; **Alex Evans**, Saltford Golf Club, AGK; **Jason Gore**, Vale Golf and Country Club (The), GK

South East

Ben Taylor-Grout, Aldeburgh Golf Club, AGK; **Ryan Minter**, Aldeburgh Golf Club, AGK; **Daniel Rigby**, Chigwell Golf Club, APP; **Wayne Gentry**, East Herts Golf Club, APP; **James Kennedy**, Woburn Golf & Country Club, APP; **Charlie Gladman**, Westerham Golf Club, APP; **Ronny Moody**, Ealing Golf Club, APP; **Thomas Day**, Wycombe Heights Golf Centre, APP; **Olly Edwards**, West Herts Golf Club, AGK; **Oliver Clark**, Mill Hill Golf Club, GK

International

Rosen Savov, GC Bad Ragaz Switzerland, O; **Robert Bradley Brooks**, TriEst Agricultural Group Inc., O; **Perez Lorente Alfredo**, Villaitana Golf, O

CM	Course Manager	GM	Groundman
HGK	Head	M	Mechanic
	Greenkeeper	O	International Member
HGM	Head		
	Groundsman	A	Affiliate Member
DCM	Deputy Course Manager	S	Student Member
		ED	Partner & Education
DH GK	Deputy Head Greenkeeper		Supporters
GK	Greenkeeper	L	Life Member
AGK	Assistant Greenkeeper	R	Retired Member
		APP	Apprentice

20 YEARS OF BIGGA HOUSE

20 Years of BIGGA House

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

“At 3.20pm on Wednesday, October 21, His Royal Highness the Duke of York unveiled a plaque in the foyer of the new Association and BIGGA HOUSE was officially christened.”

So read the introduction to the 1998 Greenkeeper International feature that officially announced the opening of BIGGA's own headquarters.

In the years since, the building has evolved along with the business, with walls being knocked through

to create an open plan working environment, the foyer being extended, and the Greenkeepers Training Committee being welcomed in-house.

Back in 1998 an assembled gathering of over 120 people came together at the new facilities,

located in the grounds of Aldwark Manor Hotel and Golf Resort in Alne, near York. What made this impressive building so special was it had been paid for through donations from BIGGA members.

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton said: “The fact this building was built by donations made by the members of the association was so poignant. It gives everyone who works for BIGGA the feeling that we inhabit a building that was quite literally built by the members, just as the association itself was born and has grown due to the hard work and commitment of BIGGA members.

‘The building is a constant reminder of what can be achieved if you put your mind to it...’

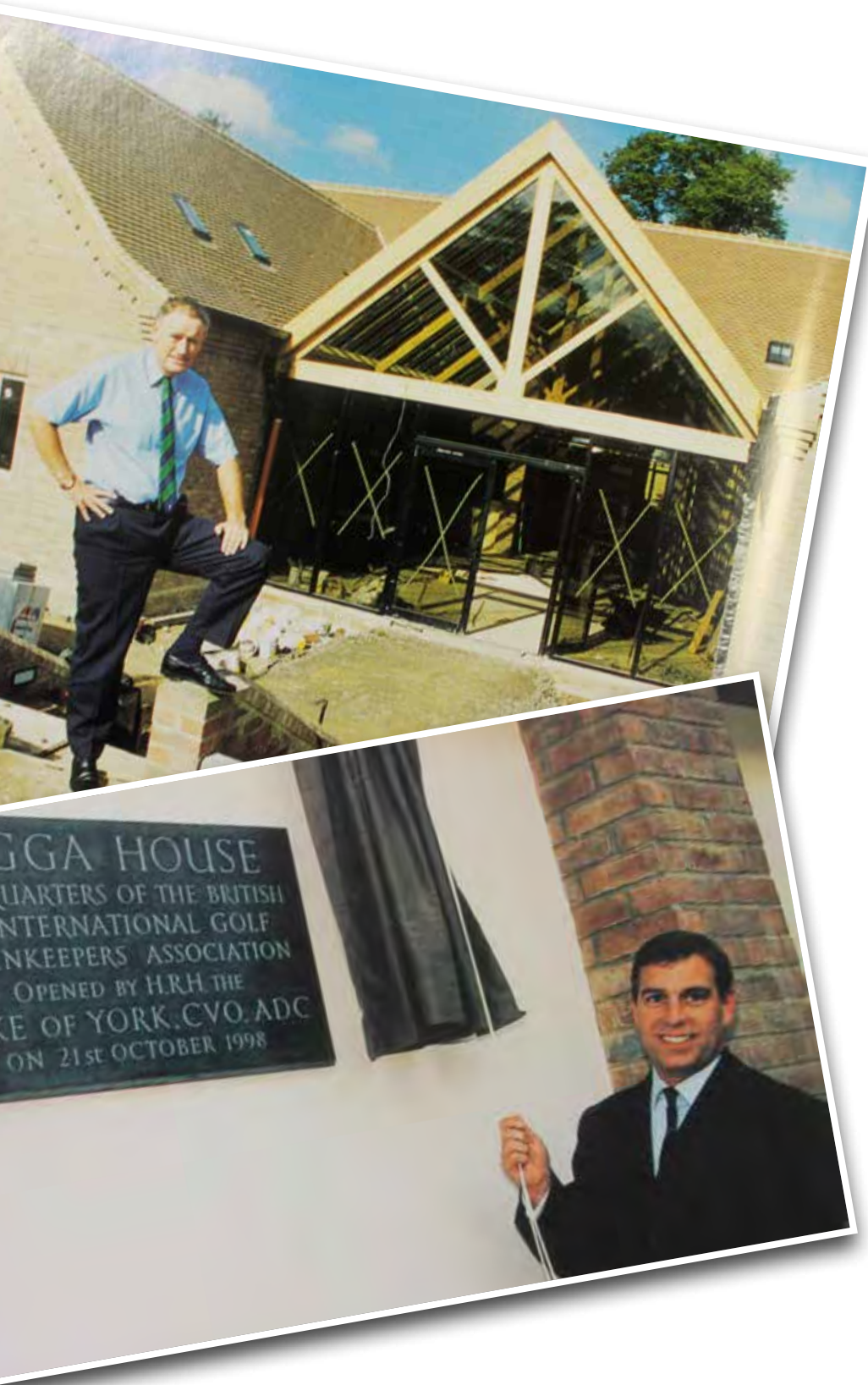
BIGGA Chief Executive
Jim Croxton



Top: BIGGA Executive Director Neil Thomas inspecting the building work

Above: HRH The Duke of York officially opens BIGGA House.

Betsy Walkington, chair of Hambleton District Council, with her consort, B Kendrew and Sales & Marketing Assistant Cheryl Broomhead



"The building is a constant reminder of what can be achieved if you put your mind to it and we work hard every day to try and pay members back for the faith they have given us."

The opening ceremony of the headquarters was started by a few words from BIGGA Chairman Gordon Child. The Duke of York then said a few words about his love for golf and appreciation of the work done by greenkeepers before pulling back some curtains

to unveil the engraved slate plaque that sits in the foyer of BIGGA House to this day.

BIGGA Head of Member Development Sami Strutt was a young BIGGA employee at the time and she recalls the excitement of the day.

"As we arrived in to the hotel grounds that day we were behind the police convoy that was bringing Prince Andrew to

Continued over

Contributors to BIGGA House:

Addington Palace Golf Club	Eastwood Golf Club
Alton Golf Club	Edenmore Golf Club
Alwoodley Golf Club	Enfield Golf Club
Arcot Hall Golf Club	Epsom Golf Club
Army Golf Club	Erewash Valley Golf Club
Ashton-in-Makerfield	Fairhaven Golf Club
Baildon Golf Club	Fereneze Golf Club
Banchory Golf Club	Fishwick Hall Golf Club
Beaconsfield Golf Club	Flamborough Head Golf Club
Bedale Golf Club	Gerrards Cross Golf Club
Beeston Fields Golf Club	Glenbervie Golf Club
Berkhamsted	Goodwood Golf Club
Bingley St Ives Golf Club	Goring & Streatley Golf Club
Birchwood Golf Club	Habberley Golf Club
Bishops Stortford Golf Club	Hags Castle Golf Club
Blackmoor	Halifax Golf Club
Blackwood Golf Club	Hallamshire Golf Club
Blyth Golf Club	Haltwhistle Golf Club
Brancepeth Castle Golf Club	Ham Manor Golf Club
Bristol & Clifton Golf Club	Hampstead Golf Club
Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club	Handsworth Golf Club
Bromborough Golf Club	Hankley Common Golf Club
Brookmans Park Golf Club	Harpenden Golf Club
Bungay & Waveney Valley Golf Club	Hawkstone Park Golf Club
Burford Golf Club	Haywards Heath Golf Club
Burhill Golf Centre	Henley Golf Club
Burnham Beeches Golf Club	Heswall Golf Club
Bury St Edmunds Golf Club	Hickleton Golf Club
Bush Hill Park Golf Club	Hillside Golf Club
Canterbury Golf Club	Hindhead Golf Club
Cardigan Golf Club	Huddersfield Golf Club
Cathcart Castle Golf Club	Ipswich Golf Club
Cawder Golf Club	John O'Gaunt Golf Club
Chestfield Golf Club	Kilmarnock (Barassie) Golf Club
Chigwell Golf Club	Kirby Muxloe Golf Club
The Childwall Golf Club	Knole Park Golf Club
Chipping Norton	Knowle Golf Club
Chorlton-cum-Hardy Golf Club	Knutsford Golf Club
Chruston Golf Club Ltd	Lees Hall Golf Club
Clitheroe Golf Club	Letchworth Golf Club
Conwy Golf Club	Lincoln Golf Club
Cooden Beach Golf Club	Lindrick Golf Club
Coombe Hill Golf Club	Little Aston Golf Club
Coombe Wood Golf Club	Littlestone Golf Club
Copt Heath Golf Club	Loch Lomond Golf Club
Coventry Hearsall Golf Club	Long Ashton Golf Club
Coxmoor Golf Club	Longniddry Golf Club
Cradoc Golf Club	Macclesfield Golf Club
Croham Hurst Golf Club	Malone Golf Club
Crompton & Royton Golf Club	Manchester Golf Club
Denbigh Golf Club	Mapperley Golf Club
Doncaster Golf Club	Masham Golf Club
Dore & Totley Golf Club	Maxstoke Park Golf Club
Drayton Park Golf Club	Meltham Golf Club
Dunfermline Golf Club	Mendip Golf Club
Dyke Golf Club	Merrist Wood Golf Club
	Moffat Golf Club
	Moor Hall Golf Club
	Moortown Golf Club
	Moray Golf Club
	Mullion Golf Club
	Murrayfield Golf Club
	Nairn Golf Club
	Newbury & Crookham Golf Club
	Newcastle-under-Lyme Golf Club
	Normanby Hall Golf Club



BIGGA House," Sami said. "He had been at the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Awards with us at Askham Bryan College, where he presented Lindrick Golf Club with an award.

"To get in to the building we had to go through all the security because both BIGGA House and

Aldwark Manor hotel had been vetted to make sure it was safe for Prince Andrew to enter.

"It was a fantastic day and what it meant was we finally owned a piece of property. This was an asset owned by the members. It became something solid, a base from which to build and it



Above left: The entrance to BIGGA House as it was in 1998

Above right: The Duke greets Viscount and Lady Whitelaw

BIGGA started life in the STRI building at Bingley, West Yorkshire



meant we weren't going away. We continue to build upon those solid foundations even today."

Upon its inception in 1987, BIGGA had been housed first in a room at the STRI's facility in Bingley, a Portakabin and then rented offices



'Long after the staff and myself have gone our separate ways and are in our dotage, the building will be there to serve future generations of greenkeepers'

Neil Thomas, writing in 1998



at Aldwark Manor, including rooms within the former stable block.

For the first 11 years of its short history, there was an acknowledgment that BIGGA had been unable to adequately house its rapidly-growing staff and that if it was to be taken seriously as a major association in the greenkeeping industry, a headquarters would need to be established.

With the kind assistance of The R&A, the wider golf industry and members who were invited to 'buy a brick', funds were eventually raised that allowed the construction of BIGGA House on a site it later emerged had once housed the manor's swimming pool.

Speaking at the time, Executive Director Neil Thomas explained how he hoped BIGGA House would become a building utilised freely by members, a modern training facility available for use by anyone in the industry.

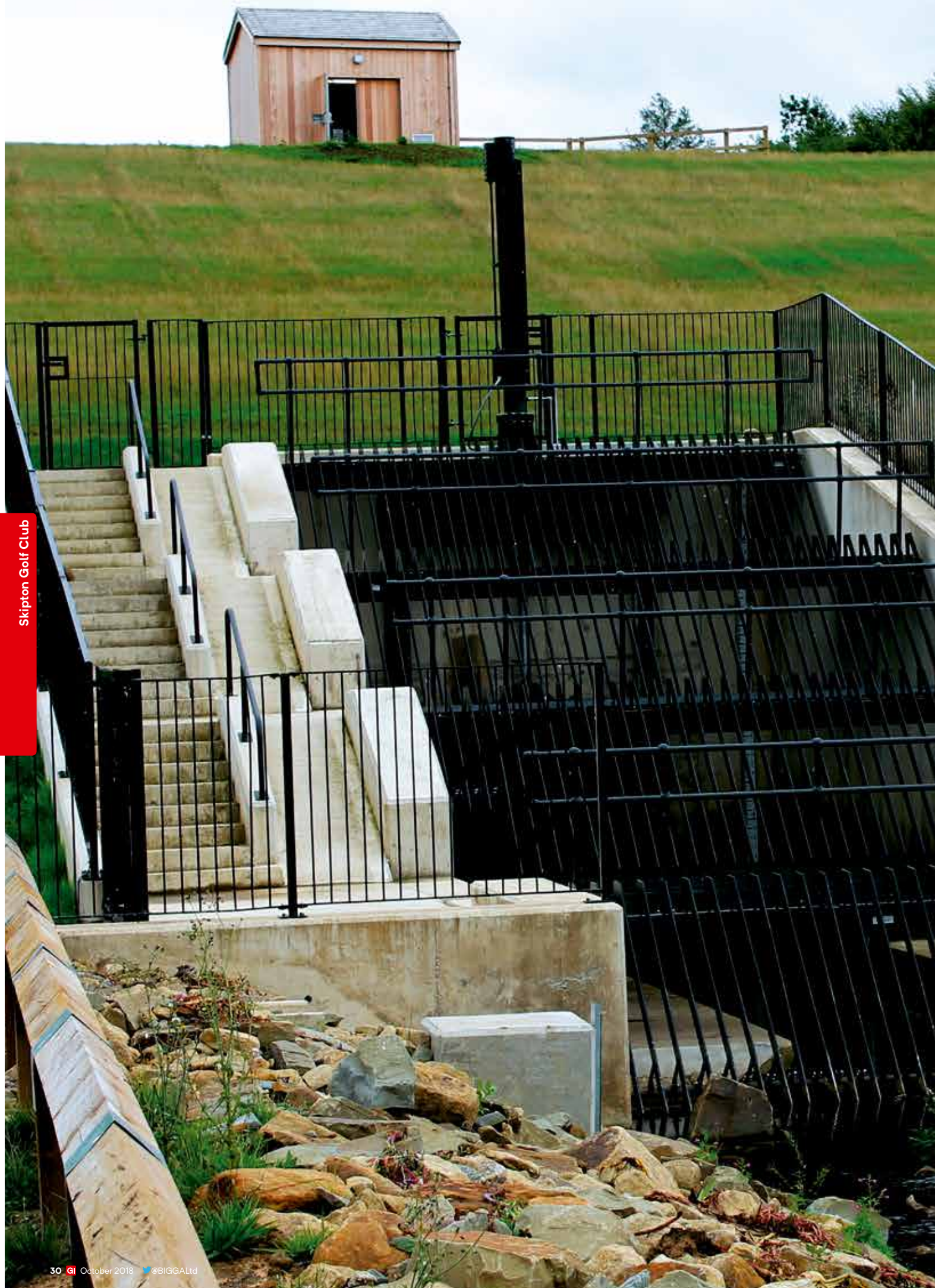
BIGGA House has lived up to that promise and each month hosts a number of events, whether it be the finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards, regional education events or National Board meetings.

Writing in the October 1998 edition of Greenkeeper International, Neil added: "Members should take great pride in their great building, which will prove to the golf world that we have come of age as an Association. It says much about the permanence of BIGGA and that is important.

"Long after the staff and myself have gone our separate ways and are in our dotage, the building will be there to serve future generations of greenkeepers. The opening is a time of celebration of BIGGA's progress, its professionalism and the many benefits it has brought to greenkeepers."

North Hants Golf Club	Shipley Golf Club
North Oxford Golf Club	Sitwell Park Golf Club
Northumberland Golf Club Ltd	Skipton Golf Club
North Wilts Golf Club	Steaforth Golf Club
Northenden Golf Club	Sonning Golf Club
Old Fold Manor Golf Club	Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club
Penrith Golf Club	Spalding Golf Club
Peterborough Milton Golf Club	St Andrews
Plassey Golf Club	St Austell Golf Club
Pleasington Golf Club	St Bees Golf Club
Pollok Golf Club	St Enodoc Golf Club
Potters Bar Golf Club	Stafford Castle Golf Club
Purley Downs Golf Club	Stand Golf Club
Puttenham Golf Club	Stanmore Golf Club
Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club	Stanton on the Wolds Golf Club
Ranfurly Castle Golf Club	Stocksfield Golf Club
Ravelston Golf Club	Sundridge Park Golf Club
Ravensworth Golf Club	Sunningdale Golf Club
Reigate Heath Golf Club	Sussex Golf Club
Ridworth Garrison Golf Club	Sutton Coldfield
Ringway Golf Club	Swinley Forest Golf Club
Roehampton Golf Club	Tain Golf Club
Romsey Golf Club	Tandridge Golf Club
Ross-on-Wye Golf Club	Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club
Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club	Temple Golf Club
Royal Birkdale Golf Club	Tenby Golf Club
Royal Burgess Golf Society	Tenterden Golf Club
Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club	Thorpeness Golf Club
Royal Guernsey Golf Club	Tulliallan Golf Club
Royal Jersey Golf Club	Turnberry Golf Club
Royal Liverpool Golf Club	Tynemouth Golf Club
Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club	Tyrrells Wood Golf Club
Royal Musselburgh Golf Club	Uttoxeter Golf Club
Royal Porthcawl Golf Club	Verulam Golf Club
Royal Portrush Golf Club	Wakefield Golf Club
Royal St George's Golf Club	Walmley Golf Club
Royal West Norfolk Golf Club	Walsall Golf Club
Royal Wimbledon Golf Club	Walton Heath Golf Club
Rugby Golf Club	Wentworth Golf Club
Sandy Lodge Golf Club	West Byfleet Golf Club
Scarcroft Golf Club	West Derby Golf Club
Seacroft Golf Club	West End Golf Club
Seaton Carew Golf Club	Halifax Ltd
Sedbergh Golf Club	West Essex Golf Club
Sherwood Forest Golf Club	West Hill Golf Club
	Whitchurch (Cardiff) Golf Club
	Whitley Bay Golf Club
	Whittington Heath Golf Club
	Willingdon Golf Club
	The Wisley Golf Club
	Woburn Golf & Country Club
	Woking Golf Club
	Woodbridge Golf Club
	Worcestershire Golf Club
	Workop Golf Club
	Wortley Golf Club
	York Golf Club





Holding back the flood


Skipton Golf Club | Karl Hansell, BIGGA

You know you're in Yorkshire when there's a kestrel on the club crest.

For 125 years Skipton Golf Club has sat above the Yorkshire Dales market town. This is a rugged, windswept golf course that's proud of its heritage, where change comes slowly, as is the tradition in Yorkshire.

It came as a bit of surprise therefore when the Environment Agency stopped by one day to announce they were going to requisition an area of the course in order to build a £14m flood defence.

Skipton Golf Club


The 14-metre high embankment and sluice gate built to control the flow of water

Continued over



It turns out that of the two streams that flow into Skipton, the one that runs through the golf course, called Eller Beck, was at risk of serious flooding in the case of a storm, with the potential to damage homes and businesses and cause millions of pounds worth of damage. The risk is very real and in one 1982 flood, a life was lost and 570 properties were flooded.

To prevent this from happening again, a 14-metre high embankment was required, with a sluice gate to control the flow of water and an area of flat land just behind it that could accommodate the water for a period. Constructed of 200,000 tonnes of fill, the proposed dam was 360m long and could hold back 433,000m³ of flood water.

And it just so happened that the ideal site for this project was on land comprising a portion of Skipton Golf Club.

The club began working closely with the Environment Agency to put together a compensation package that would enable the club to continue to thrive, understanding that the disruption could have the potential to have an economic impact on the club.

Course Architect David Jones came on board and he put together a series of plans that would enable the club to cope with the loss of the existing par-3 17th hole and 150 yards of the par-5 16th.

Club Chairman Mick Hirst said: "We had agreed a financial impact settlement for not only the course, but also the impact on the business, membership and the work we'd have to carry out. David offered four or five different options for remodelling the course and we kicked these about and chose what we thought was the best solution."

In a straight swap for the land they required, the Environment Agency secured land at the other end of the course, where MJ Abbott began construction of two new par-4 holes in April 2017.

While they were at it, the club looked at how else the club could be improved in time to celebrate its 125th anniversary, in September this year.

"It made sense to make a mess of everything while things were up in the air and we were going through a transition period," explained Head Greenkeeper Ian Brown as he described the extent of work that's taken place elsewhere on the course.

The former 1st hole has become a short game practice area, leading to a short walk to the former 2nd, a par-5, which has become the opening hole. The 15th green was remodelled and enhanced, while the 9th hole was extended to become a par-5. New tee boxes were constructed and bunkers remodelled on the 6th and 12th. Further work improved sight lines



Left: Ian Brown, head greenkeeper (left) and Mick Hirst, club chairman

Right: Part of the flood defence built by the Environment Agency

on the signature par-3 16th green, while the 17th green was raised to significantly extend the hole.

Bunkers have been replaced, pathways improved, trees felled and new ones planted and drainage has been installed. Four bridges that cross the Eller Beck have also been replaced.

All the work has been done in-house by the greenkeeping team with assistance from Oliver Sugden of Sugden Amenities, a local amenities contractor.

For the greenkeepers, a complete rebuild of the maintenance facility took place, to provide extra storage and workshop space. The purchase of grinding machines allows the club to undertake contract work, sharpening blades for other facilities.

"As a consequence of the settlement we were able to give the greenkeeping team a completely new facility," explained Mick. "The old thing was a real tumble-down and looked like it needed to be condemned.

"It was too small and there was a big crack in the floor, so we were able to negotiate a settlement

'It made sense to make a mess of everything while things were up in the air'

‘...we’ve seen a significant difference in the team due to his leadership style. He’s out there getting his hands dirty alongside them...’

whereby we calculated into the cost the amount we would need to do the work ourselves, including purchasing the machinery we would need. Rather than hiring in contractors, we calculated how much extra space and machinery we’d need and the Environment Agency were very accommodating with that as it was the cheapest way to complete the project. Thankfully, we now have a facility that’s going to be fit for purpose for the next 50 years.”

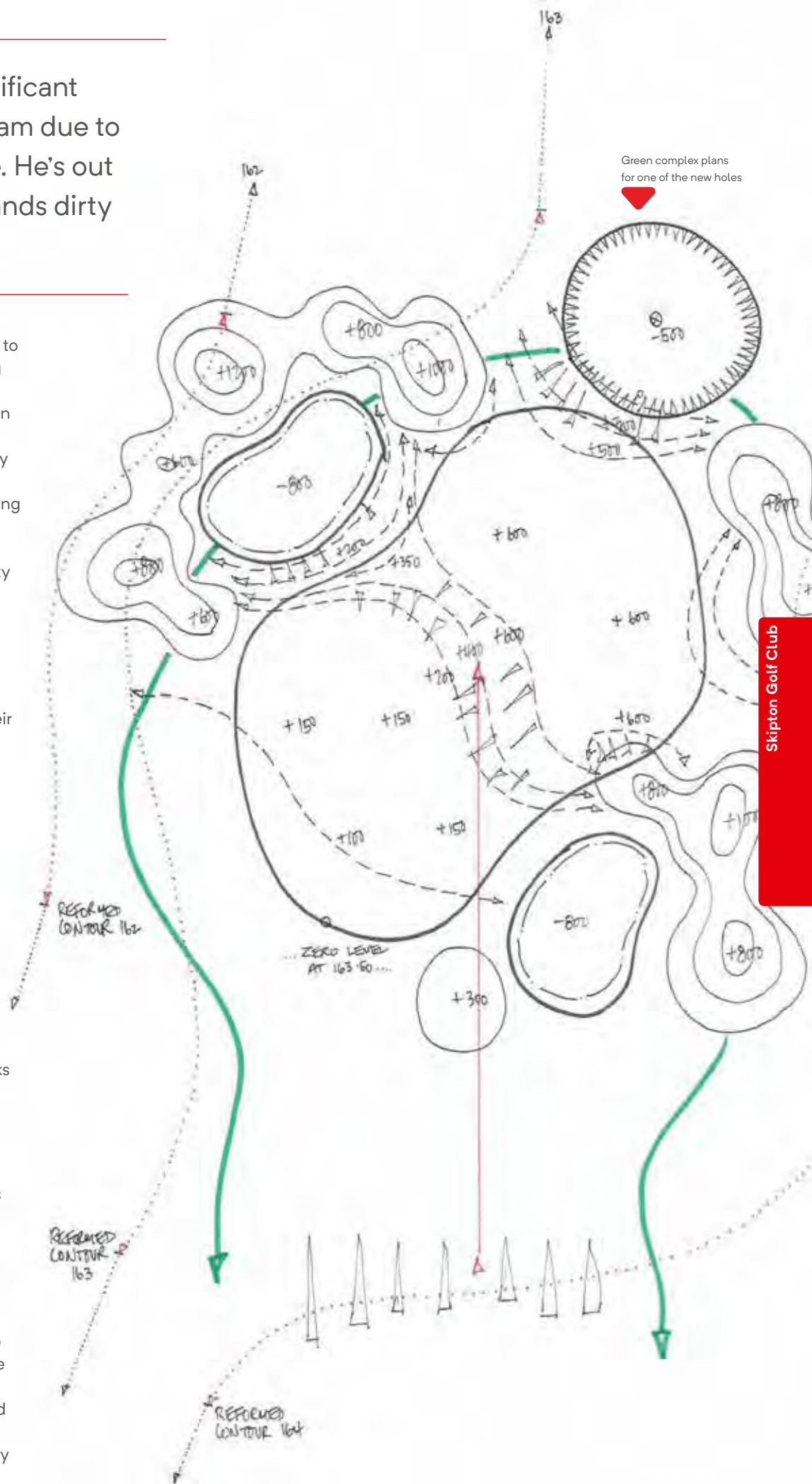
With such a commitment from the club to provide them with new facilities, Mick said the greenkeeping team now feel their efforts are appreciated.

“Ian’s leadership has also been a huge help there,” Mick added. “He’s been in charge for eight years and took over as a young whipper-snapper and we’ve seen a significant difference in the team due to his leadership style. He’s out there getting his hands dirty alongside them and he’s also got an excellent relationship with members, which is important. It’s a very low key, easy-going style, but it works and the team have shown great commitment to the club, which we appreciate.”

A farmer, Ian calls the head greenkeeping role at Skipton his “part-time job” as he starts at 6am, clocks off at 3pm and is then able to do his first passion, working on the family farm and other farms around Skipton.

The 31-year-old said: “I came up to the golf club one day because they wanted help hollow tining and needed someone who could use a tractor and that led to a full-time role, with me eventually becoming head greenkeeper.

Green complex plans for one of the new holes





"I think being a farmer fits in quite well with managing a course up here in the Dales because you need to get your hands dirty. If somebody was doing a job, I couldn't sit and watch, I'd have to help them out.

"Up here we get our fair share of rain, although it's been different this year. In greenkeeping terms, there aren't many spraying days because if it's not raining, it's blowing a gale. You're in the elements and there aren't many sheltered spots.

"But you get used to it and I don't know any different. It's like working on the farm at home and you just get on with it."

Contractors have completed their work and the new layout opened on 1 August. But for Ian and his team, there's still quite a bit to do, not helped by the hugely wet winter of 2017 followed by this summer's drought.

"We had serious washout as soon as MJ Abbott had seeded, so there's still some damage on the new fairways," said Ian. "That was soul destroying and the scars are still there. But MJ Abbott came back and they've helped us repair some of that damage; it will just take time now.

"Then the dry spell came along and things haven't really progressed. They're fantastic holes with brilliant greens complexes that we can't wait for the members to play, but they're still on preferred lies. You'd normally want 24 months for a hole to grow in, but things have taken longer than we wanted them to.

"There's been so much going on in the last three years that you don't realise how much stuff has gone into it because you're just going



Ian and the
greenkeeping team at
Skipton

The picturesque course
of Skipton



with the momentum, ready to open the new holes. And it's great that it's finally all here.

I'm looking forward to next year actually, when we'll just be able to do a bit of greenkeeping!"

Although it's considered a parkland layout, the location of the course provides some challenges to the greenkeepers. The driest month of the year is April, with 66mm of rainfall, while the wettest is December with an average of





108mm. But it's the prevailing winds that keep the temperature down with July, the warmest month on average, notching just 15.7°C.

"The course is a beautiful place to work," said Ian. "But because we have so much wind, our soil temperatures don't get up until the end of May, so everything takes a little time to get going.

"I've realised that a wet green is a cold green, so if you have a lot of moisture it's going to remain cold for longer. That is why I changed to sand dressing and we've also installed a lot of drainage on the course as that will help the temperatures.

"But if the wind is cold and easterly, it will keep the chill in



The cracks in the old greenkeeping facilities prior to being knocked down

the ground and won't allow it to warm up. Sometimes you can have a really dry spring but a cold wind and the course will be wind-bitten. This will prevent the Poa from growing, so although bents and fescues might be growing, the Poa is sat below your height of cut.

"Nothing's set in stone though and we always work around the elements. I guess that's the farmer in me talking because I'll get on with whatever is in front of me.

"I will never say I can definitely do anything, rather I say I'll have a go. That way I'm not overselling myself and letting people down, but they know I'll work hard and do what I can."

Inside the new greenkeeping facility



Skipton Golf Club

Greens staff

Ian Brown, head greenkeeper

Darren Hargreaves, deputy head greenkeeper

Eliot Platt, first assistant greenkeeper

Jamie McAuley, greenkeeper

Thomas Webster, greenkeeper

Machinery

Massey Ferguson 3615 tractor

John Deere 4066R tractor

Kubota B2150 tractor

John Deere 2500E

John Deere 8700A

John Deere 2653b

John Deere 3245c

John Deere 2653a X2

John Deere X748

Toro 5610

Toro 3250D X2

Lastec Articulator 721XR

Toro 648 pro core

Toro Greens pro 1240

Kawasaki Mule 4010

John Deere TH6X4 Gator

John Deere 2030 pro Gator

John Deere HPX Gator

Bernhard Express Duel

Bernhard Anglemaster

Leading the fight against chafer

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Chafer beetles and leatherjackets have hit the greenkeeping industry hard.

It's estimated that damage resulting from larvae of these pests could amount to £85 million a year from lost income and damage repair. With no authorised chemistry on offer, the whole industry is working hard to find a solution.

While the damage may be huge, the cause is surprisingly small. Chafer grubs are around 15mm in length, but each female beetle can lay 50 eggs that hatch below the surface of the turf and feed on the roots, killing the grass and resulting in slow growth and

yellow patches. The lack of root structure also causes the grass to become unstable.

At Brough, a 125-year-old golf club in the East Riding of Yorkshire, Rob Clare and his team have found themselves at the centre of that innovation, with leading industry bodies using the golf course and Rob's expertise as they explore possible solutions, ranging from the latest chemical products to traditional remedies.

Continued over



How do you defeat chafer beetle larvae?

Below are some of the potential methods that the team at Brough has helped research, with Rob giving his feedback on how he feels each has gone

Pathogenic nematodes

These microscopic animals are sprayed on to the turf, where they burrow downwards and attack the chafer larvae by infecting them with a fatal bacterial disease.

A leading university, together with a company called Rainbow Professional of Hull, got in touch with Brough as they were developing new strains of parasitic nematodes. They placed a number of trial plots at the golf club.

Rob Clare: So far, the tests have been inconclusive. In a laboratory situation they are very effective, but getting them to work in the field requires training and precise application methods. Using nematodes is not a one-application-treats-all method of management. It is both a proactive and a preventative measure and if used in collaboration with monitoring traps using special attractants, success rates can be increased.

While our tests proved inconclusive, others have had better results, such as at The Grove, where they had more success at lowering the below ground population of larvae.

They had access to a machine that injected nematodes directly into the soil, but this machine isn't readily available in the UK. The secret relies on getting the nematodes to where they need to be as quickly as possible, and further research is underway.

The conditions of application for nematodes are very strict so without proper training there is a possibility they will have little impact. Greenkeepers are reluctant to spend money on something that may not work.

New chemicals

Each of the chemicals previously used to control chafer grubs have been removed from the market over the past few years.

In response, the biotechnology company Syngenta developed a new product, named Acelepryn, which is still awaiting formal approval — a process that takes years.

However, the need to find a solution on golf courses was seen as of particular urgency, due to the economic damage and loss of jobs that could have been caused. In response, emergency permission was granted for the product to be used on tees and greens from June until September 2018.

Brough was one of the test sites for the new product, with trials being conducted by the STRI. Rob and the team saw significant results, leading to the product's authorisation earlier this year.

Rob Clare: We used Acelepryn and we saw control, which was fantastic and this could become a really useful tool for us in future.

However, the emergency authorisation that was granted only allowed it for use on greens and tees, while we were seeing a lot of damage on the fairways, so until we get wider authorisation, its impact will be limited.

Mechanical

Rotary knives can be used to crush the larvae during the months when they are closest to the surface. The grubs don't like disturbance — which is why you won't find them on well-kept greens — and the combination of weight and sharp blades of the machine has the effect of killing bugs just below the surface.

Rob Clare: This seemed like a really effective method so we gave it a go. But we found that the crows would just use the slits in the turf as leverage to help turn the turf over to get at the grubs, leading to even more damage, so we had to abandon it.

Organics

Anecdotal evidence has suggested that there may be ways of controlling chafer grubs using organic products such as limonene, produced from citrus oil, or garlic. If these were to work, they would be a cheap and safe alternative to other methods.

Rigby Taylor has explored these possibilities at Brough, organising a series of trials.

Rob Clare: So far, the organic stuff hasn't worked, so Rigby Taylor's agronomists have gone away and they're going to look at some other options.

Chafer grubs



Rob Clare: We've found that our best tool for relieving the pressure placed upon us is by communicating with our golfers. We've produced a lot of newsletters and we take the time to speak to golfers about what's taking place out on the course and the challenges we're facing.

The members have got on board and they understand that the damage will only be temporary and that we're doing everything we can with limited options. They understand that we're working hard to have the course looking fantastic for the start of the golf season.

Conclusions

Unfortunately, no method will offer complete eradication of chafer grubs. However, there is the opportunity to control what there is, to keep them manageable and at an acceptable level.

At Brough during their worst period, there was around 4,000m² of damage around the course. This year, the work they have put into place has reduced that amount to less than 100m².

In communicating with golfers, the team at Brough has been able to get them on board and become part of the solution. By raising awareness, golfers have begun to understand that greenkeepers are doing what they can in the face of limited options.

A version of this feature has been included in the latest edition of Your Course, the twice-yearly magazine produced by BIGGA.

Your Course seeks to raise awareness of the hard work of BIGGA members among golfers and the latest edition will be in golf clubs soon.



Top: Crow damage

Bottom: Rob Clare at Brough.

Micro-clover

Clover gives off an enzyme that grubs don't like, so they don't attack clover roots and are deterred from the area, leaving the grass alone.

Micro-clover has smaller leaves but the same benefits and is seen as a useful tool in public gardens.

Rob Clare: Unfortunately, clover doesn't fit well on a golf course as it impacts play negatively so we consider it a weed. Clover is low-growing and stands out from the rest of the grass, while it also slows play as any balls that go into areas of clover are easy lost due to the canopy of broad leaves.

Natural population control

Rob Clare: Once they're in the beetle stage and still mating, sea birds such as terns from the estuary come to the course and eat them. The problem is we don't know at what point in the process they're eating them.

Whenever we see an emergence of grubs, we've started stripping the topsoil off the area. We then leave it fallow for a while to allow the birds to come down and eat the rest of the grubs. The turf is usually damaged beyond repair so once the grubs have been eaten, we returf the area.

GET EVERYTHING RIGHT

ICL Technical Managers Andy Owen and Henry Bechelet discuss the latest research in the fight against seasonal diseases

When doing presentations, we often say “greenkeeping is a simple job; all you have to do is get everything right, all of the time!”

It's a casual remark, but it seems to chime with people. In greenkeeping we have a large number of tasks to perform in order to create playing surfaces that perform well throughout the year. This requires a great deal of skill, understanding and experience to achieve the desired level of playing surface performance.

Autumn disease management is one of the most important

phases of work in the greenkeeping calendar. The scars resulting from a damaging attack of Microdochium patch in October might persist through to early spring, making surfaces patchy and uneven for months.

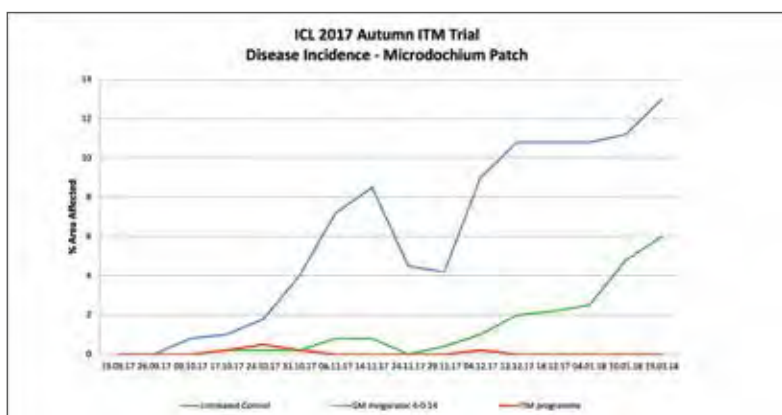
Our research work is showing that if we apply an understanding of factors that might encourage the development of this disease then we can radically reduce the risk of a damaging attack.

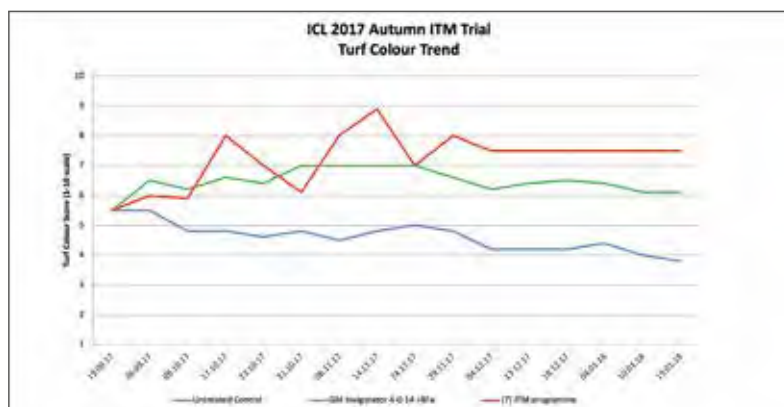
with the next generation. It is for these reasons that we need to adopt a preventative attitude towards its control.

The conditions that favour the rapid development of Microdochium patch are generally moist and relatively mild. It needs a susceptible host and a turfgrass system that is not functioning vigorously enough, making autumn ideal for its growth. But don't lose heart because our trials show that we can culturally manipulate the conditions to slow it down, crucial if we are to keep on top of the situation.

The first thing to get right to make it difficult for Microdochium patch is to maintain plant health. Traditional advice states that fertiliser is a bad thing at this time of year, but this is not entirely true as underfed or weak turf will jump into disease quicker than turf that is being kept healthy. As always, the answer lies somewhere in the middle. As a general rule of thumb, our trial work indicates that if we deliver on average 1-2kg of N/ha per week while autumn growing conditions are still good then the turf will remain healthy. This might be an application of a 4-O-14 fertiliser applied at 30g/m² to release its nitrogen over a four to six-week period in early autumn.

Far right: ICL Trial plots





suffer more disease than dry turf and so morning switching and the maintenance of light levels and free airflow with the management of surrounding trees is also important. An effective dew dispersant can reduce the level of moisture sitting in the turf canopy, but this may also adversely affect the performance of systemic fungicides so they should not be used at a time when you need quick uptake of a systemic active ingredient into the turf.

In Autumn 2017 we commissioned an independent trial at the STRI to test these simple understandings within a coherent 'ITM' programme where we aimed to deploy a number of different technologies in order to 'get everything right'.

In this trial we supplied granular nutrition with the use of SierraformGT "K STEP" 6-0-27 +2MgO +TE applied at 30g/m² (containing slow release nitrogen and potassium). Additional nutrition was applied with monthly applications of Vitalnova "Stressbuster" 7-0-0 +2Fe +sugars +surfactant (40l/ha) tank mixed with the penetrant wetting agent H2Pro "FlowSmart" (10l/ha). The dew dispersant H2Pro DewSmart

was also applied on a monthly basis to manage canopy moisture. Greenmaster Liquid "Effect Iron" 6.3Fe was applied (30l/ha) on a single occasion when disease pressure was high. No fungicide was applied to these plots. The sward was also dominated by Browntop bent and so to achieve the results we did, we really did get everything right! This year we are moving to a Poa annua-dominated sward to really put ourselves to the test.

It is clear a simple understanding of how to control the factors that favour the development of a disease with the use of focused technologies can really help reduce the speed and damage caused by Microdochium patch.

If you used these treatments individually they would not have had the powerful effect they showed when used together as part of a programme. By slowing down the outbreak, you will have more time to react.

When thinking about your autumn disease control strategy you should try to utilise all the technologies available to keep the greens clean.



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2018

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

The 30th Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards were held at BIGGA house on 17 and 18 September, with Daniel Ashelby and Danny Patten announced as winners of the prestigious competition.

Coincidentally, both winners had started a new role at The Mere in Cheshire prior to winning the award, while both also studied at Myerscough College.

Daniel Ashelby, 25, won the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, while Danny Patten, 20, won the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

Both Daniel and Danny dedicated their victories to their former clubs, Wilmslow and Lee Park respectively, and the course managers at each who had nominated them for the awards.

Drawn from 37 candidates invited to regional interviews, the finalists came together for two days of assessment, with BIGGA staff, members of the BIGGA National Board, Bruce Jamieson, representing Toro, and Reesink Turfcare Managing Director David Cole forming the judging panel.

"Candidates were of exceptionally high quality," said BIGGA Head of

Member Learning Stuart Green. "We had some really tough decisions to make to get them whittled down to the finalists who were invited to come along to BIGGA House for the main event.

"What the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award is looking for is what knowledge candidates have gained through their studies and how they have applied these in a practical sense in their everyday work practices."

The event begins with a discussion group on Monday evening, before the candidates must complete a series of examinations and make a presentation to the panel on Tuesday. Finalists for the Toro Young Student



**TORO.**

STUDENT GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2018

Greenkeeper of the Year award undertake a course walk and complete a grass identification test.

Stuart added: "The one thing I really enjoy about the final is everybody coming together to discuss ideas about what they've been learning and their careers so far. They generally leave here with some firm friendships that they take back into the industry.

"It's an amazing networking opportunity for young, keen, passionate greenkeepers to get to know each other and share ideas. Then, for the judges and members of the BIGGA board at the same time, they get to see what the members are doing and what the quality of our young greenkeepers is like in the industry."

At the conclusion of Tuesday's examinations, the judging panel came together to pick the winners of both the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, which was introduced two years ago and saw Danny Patten announced as the third winner.

Reesink Turfcare's David Cole presented the winners and runners-up with their prizes and explained why the two companies have remained firm supporters of the awards throughout their history.

He said: "The partnership between

BIGGA, Toro and Reesink Turfcare from its inception was about promoting greenkeeping as a career and the importance of continuous learning. That legacy has become apparent through the worthy names of winners over the past 30 years and the mark they've made on the industry. The success of the previous winners tells us clearly that the scholarship and the original concept of the prize is doing the right job, which is fantastic. Through the recent changes, with the introduction of the young award, it's great to see that the awards remain relevant in the industry and the promotion of greenkeeping."

The runner-up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award was John Scurfield of Morpeth.

The other finalists were Tim Brown of Hockley, William Curran of Hever Castle and Dan Dooley of Mount Murray.

The runner-up in the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year award was Liam Pigden of Burnham & Berrow Golf Club.

The other finalists were Aaron Hurdwell of Harleyford, Adam Jackson of Ferndown, Harry Misselbrook of Harewood Downs and Reece Tomalin of Trentham.

Applications for next year's Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards will open in February 2019.

Turn the page to find out more about the two winners of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards

Clockwise from top left: Awards runners-up Liam Pigden and John Scurfield with winners Daniel Ashelby and Danny Patten

Daniel Ashelby

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2018

Daniel joined The Mere the week before the finals took place, but dedicated his victory to Wilmslow Golf Club, where he was working when nominated for the award by Course Manager Steve Oultram.

"Steve has been really supportive and I'm thankful to him for everything he's done for me," said Daniel, 25. "Gwynn Davies at The Mere has been brilliant too, so that's really helped."

Working with tutor Chris Tiplady at Myerscough College, Daniel finished his course the week before the finals took place, passing with flying colours.

Daniel said: "He was a really good tutor and helped me as much as he could, making sure we would go back over anything I wasn't sure of until I got it right."

Daniel's greenkeeping education began at a young age. His father, Mark, was head greenkeeper at Gatley Golf Club and Daniel has been helping out around the course since he was eight years old.

Since then, he has been inspired to get heavily involved with BIGGA through Steve at Wilmslow, as well as others he's met such as Tim Johnson at Penn Golf Club.

"Steve's a big inspiration for me," said Daniel. "I enjoy meeting like-minded greenkeepers, especially those who've been doing it for a number of years. They've got a lot of help to give and as a by-product of getting involved with BIGGA committees and meetings you get to be part of the industry and help make it better for everyone. You also get to meet other people who are doing well in their careers and learn from their experiences."

Daniel has won six weeks at the University of Massachusetts Winter School for Turf Managers. The

UMass Winter School is a world class certificate programme, with the winner gaining an all-expenses paid place. Daniel will be immersed in an intensive, full-time programme of education across six weeks.

He will also get to travel to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego and enjoy a visit to the Toro Factory in Minneapolis.

Daniel said: "Last year's winner, Nick Machin, has told me what to expect from the trip and has told me about where to find the best American cheeseburgers!

"I looked into the UMass Winter Turf School as something I wanted to do in my career as it's really interesting. There's a lot of top USGA agronomists and PhD doctorates lecturing and it's going to be brilliant to learn about a completely different viewpoint than in the UK."

Daniel's nominator, Steve Oultram, receives an all-expenses paid trip to the Golf Industry Show in the USA.

Daniel is in good company. Of the 29 previous winners of the award, 15 currently hold course manager or head greenkeeper positions, while another two are deputy head greenkeepers. Alan Pierce has achieved the Master Greenkeeper certificate, while Steve Nixon is director of Bernhard Company.

Daniel said he didn't know what to expect when arriving for the finals of the awards, unsure of the competition he would face. He added: "When I arrived I thought I'd be walking in to a group of four future Master Greenkeepers, but it's actually a group of people who are at the same level as you. They're just very passionate and dedicated and we all got on really well. Everyone felt a little bit nervous but we all gave each other confidence and there was no competitive spirit, it was more that we were all celebrating just being here.

"I put a lot of effort into my presentation and had a few late nights to get it finished. I was really nervous, trying to rehearse it. You try and read a script and make yourself come across as confident and get your personality across, but leading up to it you can't tell if it's going to be right or whether they'll laugh at your jokes, but in

The finalists for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2018



the end it all just seemed to start flowing and the preparation I had done really paid off."

The judges agreed and that, in addition to the scores he achieved in the various other tests, meant Daniel was chosen as the 30th winner of the awards, with BIGGA's Stuart Green announcing him as the winner at the conclusion of the day.

"Ahead of the announcement I just felt really calm and then when they said my name my heart just started going and it was really crazy. I didn't really anticipate winning until I actually did it! There was a really strong line-up and even when John, the runner-up, was announced, I felt that it still could have been any one of us.

"BIGGA, Toro and Reesink have gone above and beyond for us this week. Everyone has been amazing and for them to sponsor this massive event each year, it's amazing that they take an interest in us and help us develop."



Danny Patten

Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2018

When Danny, 20, called his mum, Camilla, to tell her he had won the award, she didn't believe him.

"I'm a bit of a wind-up," said Danny. "So she thought I was lying and I said 'I'm not mum, I'm telling the truth'. She said 'you're lying' and I had to tell her to look on the BIGGA website and she went, 'Oh my God' down the phone and she was crying her eyes out. I said 'I told you!' and it was just great."

Danny began greenkeeping aged 17. Having played golf at Elite Sports College in Liverpool, he decided to pursue greenkeeping as a career.

"I wasn't enjoying golf any more so I asked my club, Lee Park, whether there were any jobs going for apprentice greenkeepers and they took me on," Danny explained. "When I was a golfer I only thought greenkeepers worked Monday to Friday, I didn't realise how much science and hard work is behind maintaining a golf course."

"I prefer greenkeeping to golf now as there's something different every week and it really gets your mind going. While you may be doing similar jobs, the conditions change through the seasons. You're always trying to get the course looking lush, so there's no chill time. There's a lot of work goes in to preparing a course and that's fantastic as it keeps your mind occupied."

It was Course Manager Jon McMullen who encouraged Danny to get involved with education and BIGGA seminars to push himself. Jon also nominated Danny for the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

"Jon was always saying I needed to go to BTME and do some seminars," explained Danny. "I was unsure at first because I didn't know what it

was. But then I did some reading up and I went along one year. It was just mind-boggling how big it actually was. I realised how massive BIGGA was for your career. You get to meet new people and learn about new machinery and ways of doing your job. It's great for networking and talking. That's when I found out about the awards."

Danny is about to start his level 3 at Myerscough College and said the relationship he has with the college is a real help with his career. He explained: "My tutor, Vinny Price, comes to visit me once a month and we do some college work to continue my progress. They're dead supportive and when I won the award they sent a Tweet out saying congratulations. It's little things like that, that make you feel appreciated and that's what Myerscough College do. They're a great college to be a part of."

Danny has won a two-week work experience placement at the Vidauban Golf Club in southern France, where he will experience the different methods of course management at the venue.

When he first applied to be part of the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year experience, he was just pleased to be invited for a regional interview.

"I thought I'd be more than happy if I just got invited for a regional interview," Danny said. "I got the letter saying I had been invited to a regional interview and I thought that was brilliant. I saw someone had said they got a memento for being invited to the regional interview and I thought that was a really nice touch, I'll always have that and it'll always be on my CV."

"I did the regional interview and thought it went really well, I couldn't do any better, and then I got the call off Debs in the office saying 'well done, you've got into the final'. I asked her did she mean the regional because I'd done that and she said no, the national final, and I was just in shock and I couldn't believe it!"

For the candidates for the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year, part of the assessment is a course walk, where the finalists are joined by Stuart Green and BIGGA President Chris Kennedy,

The finalists for the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2018



the former head of estates and golf courses at The Wentworth Club.

"I was excited to show off what I know to the likes of Chris and Stuart," explained Danny. "I wanted to share my knowledge and see if they approved of what I had to say. Chris said yeah, your knowledge is fantastic and I must have pleased them enough to win an award.

"Just the fact Chris and the other BIGGA members give their time up for two days and they're here to see who has the most passion and is going to contribute the most to the industry, it's just amazing. That's what makes BIGGA so unique is that you can speak to greenkeepers such as him and they are so willing to help the next generation."

Danny was nominated by Jon McMullen, course manager at Lee Park. Jon receives a trip to Vidauban Golf Club for the last two days of Danny's placement, including flights and hotel.



Can golf courses save the world?

Rigby Taylor

Rigby Taylor and its seed breeding partner Top Green have a long and very successful relationship. Top Green's seed breeding and research facility situated in Les Alleuds, France is the partnership development centre for Rigby Taylor grass seed mixtures, including Carbon4Grass.

'Fixing' the greenhouse effect

The greenhouse effect, carbon cycle and carbon sequestration impact our everyday lives. Grasses just like trees are chlorophyll-based plants, absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere for use in photosynthesis. The process uses sunlight and water to convert CO₂ into carbohydrates and simple sugars to generate energy and growth, "fixing" greenhouse gases from the air into the soil and providing oxygen as a bi-product. Just two square metres of grassland can produce enough oxygen to support one person for an entire day.

A proportion of the absorbed carbon is transferred from the dense canopy and fibrous root system into the soil as plants senesce and decompose. One hectare of natural, open grassland can sequester up to 2.5 tonnes of

carbon per hectare per annum, creating a net carbon sink held within the soil profile.

Net carbon sink

All well and good on one hand, but what about the intensively managed amenity grass surfaces we all enjoy that, by definition, have a much greater environmental impact? Because managed amenity turf has higher plant populations per square metre than natural grassland, having the availability of amenity cultivars which sequester (lock up) relatively more carbon and can make a significant contribution in mitigating the environmental impact of essential maintenance inputs preserving a net carbon sink.

Carbon study

A "Carbon4Grass" (C4G) study at Top Green Breeding & Research Station in Les Alleuds, France commenced in 2005. Using well-established grass plots,



Top: Net carbon sink. Choosing Carbon4Grass mixtures helps mitigate maintenance inputs

Bottom: Carbon study. Established grass plots at Les Alleuds Research

the initial aim was to identify differences in the carbon sequestration values of managed amenity grass species. The study revealed significant differences between species in their capacity to store and sequester carbon

Working together with our partners

RT
rigby taylor

Courses world?



Tonnes of CO₂/Ha stored in turfgrass species



Tonnes of CO₂/Ha sequestered into the soil profile per annum



within the leaves, roots and soil profile when managed under exactly the same environmental conditions. The amount of carbon sequestered will vary depending on local environmental conditions and maintenance inputs.

Carbon credentials

The study progressed to assess a range of cultivars within species, with new cultivars from the breeding programme entered into the study over time. The differences in proficiency of individual cultivars to sequester carbon proved to be significant. This knowledge has been used to create Rigby Taylor C4G mixtures, combining increased levels of carbon sequestration

potential with desirable amenity characteristics for golf course applications. For example, cultivars with higher carbon "scores" have been identified to help mitigate the impact of tasks such as mowing which contribute to the carbon footprint. R25CRT, R6CRT each demonstrate the potential to sequester significantly more carbon in comparison with comparative 100% ryegrass and rye/fescue mixes for golf tees, fairways, semi-roughs and walkways.

Tetraploid technology

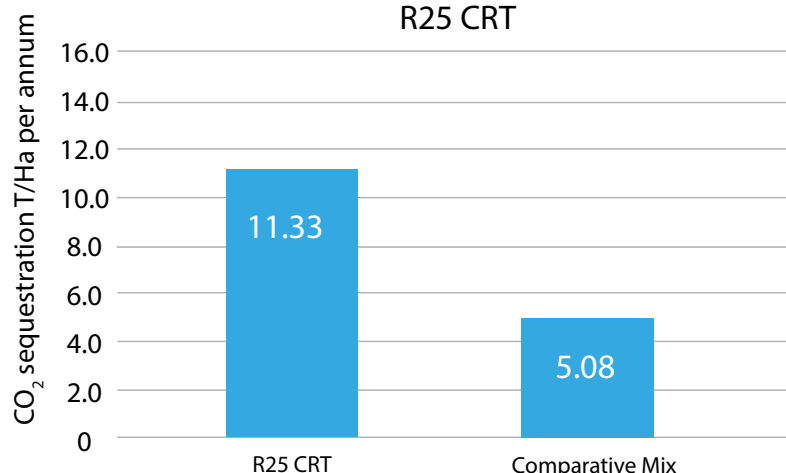
A notable innovation for C4G is fast establishing and hard wearing tetraploid perennial ryegrass technology, which extend the

Carbon study: Tonnes of CO₂ per hectare sequestered into the soil profile per annum

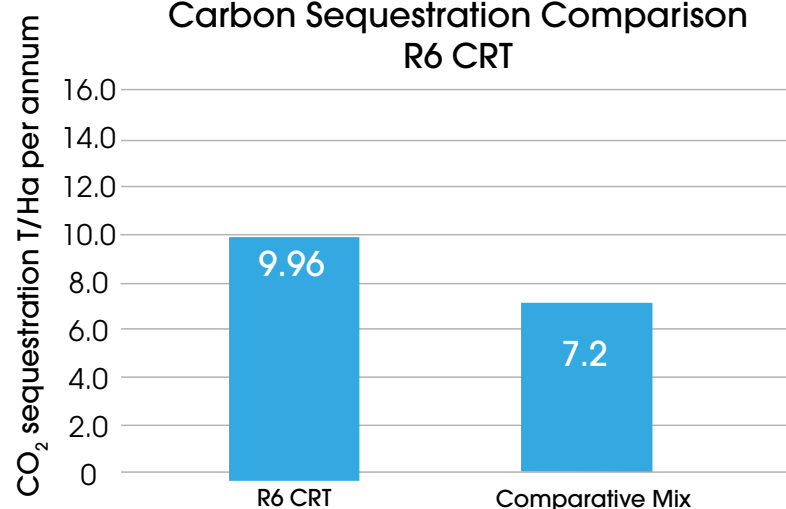
Tetraploid technology: Range of grass seed treated with Germin-8T boosts germination and establishment particularly in cooler conditions



Carbon Sequestration Comparison R25 CRT



Carbon Sequestration Comparison R6 CRT



growing season through cold temperature growth. Tetraploids are actively germinating, growing and photosynthesising in colder conditions from just 4°C, thus maintaining active grass cover for longer to potentially “capture” more carbon. Tetraploids (4n) have double the chromosomes of a diploid ryegrass (2n), meaning double the chloroplast and chlorophyll for photosynthesis. The root mass of grasses acts as a reservoir for carbon, which eventually transfers into the soil profile as roots die and decompose. Tetraploids have a much stronger, deeper, denser root mass than

diploids, delivering greater potential for higher sequestration, an important physiological feature when you consider ryegrass accounts for around 90 per cent of the seeds used to create and maintain amenity turf in the UK.

Tetraploids also have increased tolerance to disease and drought in comparison with diploids. Potential is enhanced still further with Germin-8T seed treatment, which contains *Mycorrhiza* and *Trichoderma atroviride* for symbiotic plant health. Together with tetraploid technology it enables sowing of C4G mixtures virtually all year round.



Top left: Carbon credentials carbon sequestration

Top right: Tetraploid technology: Deeper, denser root system with tetraploids

Summary

The past twelve months were a clear indicator if one were needed of how changes in climatic conditions are dramatically challenging and shaping our environment. A thoroughly wet winter, cold spring plus summer heat and drought have all taken their toll.

It is within everyone's duty of care to ensure we do the utmost to minimise or offset our carbon footprint. Seemingly insignificant choices can collectively make a meaningful contribution overall. Rigby Taylor offers a range of Carbon4Grass mixtures with improved disease and drought tolerance for golf.

'Fixing the Greenhouse Effect' is available on request as a printed brochure detailing more an extended trials data. Freephone: 0800 424 919

Summary:
Summer heat of 2018 took its toll on UK golf courses





This is one life saver your turf won't need...



...this is one it will!

And, there are 10 other Rigby Taylor tank-mix packages that have been specially designed to protect your turf against diseases throughout the year.

Advance planning is key and the focus should be on prevention, rather than cure. The majority of turf diseases, once they are visible to the naked eye, have already caused damage and therefore the introduction of a **preventative programme** is critical to success.

The Rigby Taylor tank-mix packages contain five different modes of action and activity that can be used in combination to guard against the risk of disease resistance.



ELAND YEAR ROUND PACKAGE
EXTERIS YEAR ROUND PACKAGE
FUSION YEAR ROUND PACKAGE
BANNER MAXX YEAR ROUND PACKAGE
FLUDIOXONIL YEAR ROUND PACKAGE
DEFENDER AUTUMN PACKAGE
EXTERIS AUTUMN PACKAGE
ELAND WINTER PACKAGE
EXTERIS RENOVATION PACKAGE
HERITAGE SUMMER PACKAGE
ELAND FAIRY RING PACKAGE

To help with this objective, an 'Active Planning' brochure, 'Fungicide Programme Calendar' wall chart and easy-peel labels have been created to record a visual history of your disease management activity.



The free wall chart and brochure are available from your Rigby Taylor area representative or by calling Freephone 0800 424 919

CHART H

**Minimising maintenance
and perfecting performance**

Topsport

For a top UK golf course that prides itself on offering a challenging yet enjoyable game, the performance of bunkers is essential to reputation and ultimately profit.

Preventing the issues and high maintenance costs associated with poor bunker drainage led Chart Hills to look for an innovative solution with Tarmac's Topsport.

Working together
with our partners



THE CHALLENGE

Situated in the High Weald of Kent, Chart Hills is an award-winning course designed by six-time major winner-turned golf course designer, Sir Nick Faldo. Featured in the Rolex Top 1,000 courses in the world, Chart Hills is recognised for offering a diverse game within a stunning location. Built in the traditional US parkland style, the course's greatest challenge comes from the large number of bunkers which line its fairways and surround its greens, including The Anaconda, which is the longest

in Europe. Bunkers are therefore central to the reputation and popularity of the club.

Ensuring effective and long-lasting bunker drainage is surprisingly still a common problem for golf courses across the UK. With a requirement for an effective lining that could be retrofitted onto the existing green-side bunkers, the Chart Hills team wanted a fresh solution that would avoid all of these common issues, reduce maintenance, and meet its high performance standards.

ILLS



Topsport

THE SOLUTION

During extensive research, the Chart Hills team came across two courses already using the innovative Topsport bunker lining. Following site investigations, the team decided to apply the engineered solution to an initial five bunkers in 2014. A further 11 green-side bunkers, totalling around 900m², were completed in 2015. Following their success, an additional 20 were lined in 2016.

Richard Goddings, technical sales manager for Tarmac's Topsport team, said: "The simple structure of Topsport's bunker liner is beneficial for a number of reasons. Chiefly, as it avoids the use of chemicals it can be laid in all weather conditions, meaning work can be undertaken during the winter months when courses may be closed or used less frequently, minimising any potential course downtime.

"Plus, having a dedicated Topsport approved installer means an efficient installation. For instance, a delivery of Topsport's premixed bunker liner arrived at Chart Hills at 8.15am to work on the ninth hole. Five installers barrowed, laid, and compacted the material for 100m² of lining, with the sand being replaced just two hours later. This speed meant golfers teeing off at 9am didn't experience any disruption to their game, with the bunker fully playable by the time they got to the ninth hole.

"Chart Hills has certainly seen an improvement in free drainage. This has simultaneously reduced the levels of repair after very heavy rainfall, with the liner completely preventing washout from the bunkers to date. This ultimately means less replacement sand is needed over the course of the year, further contributing to reduced maintenance costs."

Neil Lauder, golf course manager at Chart Hills, added: "The improvements we've seen have been remarkable. We suffer significant wash through heavy rain and we are also situated on heavy clay. The new lining has just improved the bunkers on end.

"In terms of maintenance, before the lining we were spending probably sixty per cent of our resources on bunker maintenance.

"The bunkers that we've used the Topsport Bunker Lining in have proved to be absolutely remarkable, especially when it comes to holding sand on the high faces. Members' comments are progressing forward and I think it's putting us back where we need to be in the market place."

General Manager Shaun Bakker concluded: "We have 133 bunkers here at Chart Hills so maintenance and ensuring they're always fit for play is really important to us. We are in England after all and if there's a bit of rainfall around you can quickly find your bunker faces getting washed down.

"As we've got a lot of high faces here and it's important that we keep these bunkers in play for our members and guests, with the Topsport Bunker Lining and its percolation rates, the water just goes straight through. It's easy to maintain and really helps us to achieve maximum playability from our bunkers, whatever the weather."

For more information on Tarmac's range of Topsport golf course solutions, visit www.topsport.co.uk or call 03456 007 704.

Recognising and rectifying drainage problems

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Produced with extracts from Michael Claxton, director at Shelton Sportsturf Drainage, speaking at Continue to Learn 2018.

Drainage

What causes flooding on a golf course?

Where the water table rises to the level of the soil, that'll lead to flooding. But this won't happen naturally unless you're on permeable low-lying ground close to a river. Unless that's the case, water should be flowing away.

You may wonder, therefore, why water is just sitting there on your fairways and greens, unsightly and damaging the playability of the course.

One of the potential causes is a layer of compacted soil, usually just 100 to 150mm below the surface and caused by maintenance equipment and even golfers, squeezing the air out of the subsoil and causing a thick layer that water can't penetrate. Even if the soil is free-draining below that layer, any water will just sit on top of it and cause problems.

The solution is to dig a trial hole and if you do spot a compacted layer, a process of vertidrainage, slitting or hollowtining will break through, relieving the problem. Regular maintenance is key to prevent it returning, though.

Rather than compacted soil, thatch layers can also prevent water from escaping. The dead organic material will hold onto water like a sponge, even if the soil below is perfectly dry. Slitting, hollowcoring and scarifying over a period of time will remove the thatch.

Poor drainage may also be caused by the type of soil you are on. While sand is free-draining, the same can't be said for clay or slow-moving subsoils. Water will hit the clay layer and just sit there, so you have no alternative than to put a drainage system in place.

A traditional design for drainage, both on the fairway and on greens, has been the herringbone design, with lateral pipes coming together to meet a single spine. With older technology this was the easiest way to install drainage as it was easy to ensure everything flowed downhill at a slight gradient — vital if you want water to flow away.

However, if there were to be any problems with the main outfall, it would necessitate you digging up the centre of your fairway or green, which just isn't desirable and could cause significant disturbance to playing conditions.

In more recent years a 'flag' layout has become more common. The main outfall is off to the side of the playing surface and with all the lateral pipes attached to one side there are half as many junctions where problems could occur.

Lateral pipes are double the length in this design and it does have its shortcomings. You can't, for example, use this method with a humpbacked fairway or a bowl-shaped green. But with modern technology allowing for lateral drains to be put in with incredible precision, it is a valuable technique for many courses.

However, it is worth remembering that, no matter how good your



Compacted soil layer 100-150mm below the surface



Flooding at
Mortonhall GC.
Image by Shaun
Cunningham

drainage is, if there is a layer of thatch or compacted soil preventing water from reaching it, the system will be ineffective.

Herringbone and flag layouts are considered primary drainage and in recent years these have been complemented by a system of 'secondary' drainage. These can be targeted for installation in particularly difficult areas or where the system needs an added boost.

Secondary drainage can be bands that criss-cross the lateral drainage, ranging from 50cm to 2m apart and providing additional protection.

One method of installing secondary drainage is through gravel banding, whereby the machine pushes the soil to one side and drops in an aggregate such as gravel or Lytag, an expensive but lightweight material that has 10 times the hydraulic conductivity of ordinary gravel.

On the greens, this system can cause problems such as corrugation, whereby in adding additional material to the soil, you're squeezing together the existing soil and it raises upwards, leading to an uneven surface. This can be prevented by thick hollow-coring the green before the work takes place to provide space for the soil to shift into, or by undertaking the work when the soil is wet and pliable.

This process can create effective drainage on the greens for up to 10 years, while slitting can be effective for twice as long. Slitting is the process of excavating bands of soil 250mm deep and 50mm wide and refilling the trench with sand or aggregate to within

75mm of the surface. This is more expensive and will take longer to heal, but the effects are long lasting.

Other methods are available, but whether you choose to do the work yourself or you have the budget to pay a contractor to complete the entire project, it is clear that having a well-planned and well-maintained drainage system is key to keeping your course dry and in play.

ForthRoots | Pedestrian Trenchers

ForthRoots pedestrian trenchers, the FR1 and FR2, provide the ability to perform secondary drainage techniques to aid soil water management — a key element of turf management in the quest for year round play. STRI trials confirm that use of ForthRoots pedestrian trenchers results in consistently firmer and drier surfaces and that our trenchers provide a versatile solution to problematic areas of sports turf.

Their manoeuvrability means FR1 and FR2 pedestrian trenchers complement larger machinery and enable installation of secondary drainage products. They can easily access areas where larger machinery is not suitable and can trench depths of up to 12" and widths of less than 1" up to 4.5", making them ideal for working on the difficult middle area of rootzones, and providing the opportunity to replace poor performing soils with quality backfill materials. And because the ForthRoots trenchers remove spoil there is no 'heave' when backfilled, eliminating the need for excessive heavy rolling on already wet turf.

The versatility of the ForthRoots trenchers can be demonstrated by the various trench depths and widths that can be performed by the FR1 and FR2 and the numerous operations that can be performed — including micro trenching, sand and gravel banding, drainline rejuvenation and installation of pipe and secondary drainage products.

ForthRoots FR1 and FR2 trenchers perform best when combined with ForthRoots Workmats and ForthRoots Sand & Gravel Hopper, which enable easy removal of spoil and efficient backfilling of trenches.

For further information, please visit www.forthroots.com or contact Blair Young on: +447904 456 333



Turfcare Specialists Limited | Supertrencher+

Turfcare Specialists Limited understand the pressures on greenkeepers and groundsmen to provide high quality playing surfaces all year round.

Which is why we use our experience and technical knowledge to provide our customers with primary and secondary drainage solutions to suit their specific needs.

Improved drainage will result in better soil structure, a healthier sward and ultimately a better playing surface.

Our award winning Supertrencher+ is ideal for installing land drainage pipes and other underground services such as cables on greens, fairways, and sports pitches, especially where minimum surface damage is demanded.

Using the Supertrencher+'s digging wheel, excavating soil from the trench and thrown via a conveyor into a trailer or dumper running alongside. You are left with a clean trench which is ready for laying piping or any other service required.

Secondary drainage, such as sand slitting plus sand or gravel banding may also be offered as additions to a primary piped drainage system. This increases surface infiltration and improves drainage of the surface and upper part of the growing medium.

Turfcare Specialists Limited operate throughout the North East, Cumbria and North Yorkshire, offering excellent drainage services to golf clubs, sports clubs, schools, local authorities and more.

We can help take the pressure off your shoulders to maintain the perfect sports pitch, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with us today and we can arrange a site visit at your earliest convenience.



GKB | GKB machines swing into action

One machine, one pass, one person.

Tackling the problems of waterlogging and surface drainage on the golf course can be time consuming and next to bunker maintenance represents a major expense for the club. At least that used to be the case because what can be a time-consuming and costly task has been made a whole lot easier. Instead of requiring separate equipment for each job there is a machine that will do both and it's made by GKB Machines who know a thing or two about golf course maintenance. The GKB Sandfiller combines in one operation scarifying, removal and sandfilling. It's clever in that the slitting rotor utilises carbide scarifying blades to create wind and lift the removed material to a tipping container. Dried sand instantly fills the moment the scarifying is complete, making the area immediately ready for use. The beauty of it is it just needs one person to carry out the whole operation and one pass does all. Neat and cost-effective.



The top dresser that's going places

The same can be said of other machines in the GKB golf course range. The GKB SP100 Sandfiller is a top dresser that neatly fits onto a turf truck, be it a John Deere Gator, a Toro Workman, whatever, with a simple bolt-on system and stand legs for easy set up or removal.

With a 1m³ hopper capacity the machine suits a variety of purposes, evenly distributing materials such as sand and mulch for dressing as required around the course, with variable spread widths and depths. It's easily fitted with electro-hydraulic controls and runs directly off the hydraulics of the chosen turf truck. The SP100 has been developed on the back of the success of GKB's trailed versions. While the SP100 is suitable for assembling on a turf truck other designs are provided with four pivoting balloon tyres, for the perfect distribution of the weight on your golf course.



The GKB SP100 Sandfiller

The strong contender for your course record

Every professional greenkeeper is naturally looking to preserve their course in top condition. Combating weed, thatch and moss requires a continuous maintenance regime. You need to ensure there is the maximum amount of activity from bacteria and micro organisms to decompose thatch. Scarifying with the minimum waste flow, and doing it at speed, is something you can count on with the GKB Vstrong which offers the option of scarifying with or without collection. What's certain is the operating speeds up to 7.4mph/12km/h mean you can quickly cover the ground for maximum productivity in the fastest time. At the heart of the machine is a CombiRotor with 3mm carbide scarifying blades attached by a QuickLock system to the rotor. You can attain a depth of 5cm and with a reversed rotation direction you're guaranteed you don't miss an inch. There is also the option of 2 or 4mm blades and you can alter the centre-to-centre distance of the scarifying blades. the Vstrong is produced in the same innovative manner as the GKB Combinator in energy neutral, sustainable production facilities and developed from the experience of GKB's own contractor division.

You can arrange a demonstration of GKB machines by calling Tom Shinkins on 07495 883 617 or find out more at www.gkbmachines.com.



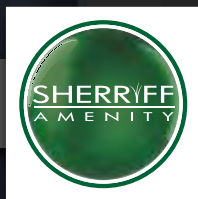
GKB Sandfiller



GKB Vstrong on the golf course

Meet Team

Working together with our partners





the

Introducing the Sherriff Amenity Product Development Team

Tom Wood, Johnny Beck and Joe Kinder

The turf industry is rapidly evolving and that is, in part, thanks to the continued investment in research and development.

It remains crucial for the future availability of products that are essential for the maintenance of high-quality playing surfaces and other amenity areas.

There is, however, an exhaustive process of testing, refining, formulating, registering and manufacturing a product before it even reaches the end user.

But who are the people involved in this lengthy process?

Introducing the Sherriff Amenity Product Development Team...

We all see thousands of products appearing in glossy brochures or shiny pamphlets, but how do we know they will do exactly what they say they will?

"There isn't a Which? magazine in this industry," said Johnny Beck, member of the Sherriff Amenity Product Development Team. "In reality you can put whatever you like in a bottle and there is nobody out there who can disprove what you are doing. That is where we come in.

"I like to think that we are a product in our own right. We are a group of people that are not just helping Sherriff Amenity, but we are trying to support the whole industry."

As an industry leading supplier of lawn treatment, grass fertiliser and turf care products, Sherriff Amenity has long been approached by numerous manufacturers wishing to work with them. The issue was, and still is, how does the company decide which products are good enough to put their name to? With this in mind, the Product Development Team was born.

"The concept behind the Product Development Team was to be a filter for the management team," said Sherriff's Joe Kinder. "They had supplier reps going to them to try and get Sherriff Amenity to sell their products and they were getting quite bombarded. Let's say that the management team are more commercially minded and back then people without a technical background were unable to speak to these companies to try and filter out what we could use and what we could take on and develop. To the management team, it made sense to have a team of experts who could take the pressure off them. That was how it all started back in 2006.

"In a way you could say we are exploring the divisions between marketing and technical excellence because it is not in our values to seek out purely commercial solutions when there is additional technical benefit elsewhere. We challenge manufacturers to put products to trial and to be fair the majority of them agree to do so. The trials do not always work for them.

Continued over

“but in some cases they do. By doing this, it cuts some people out because the ones who do not agree to put it to trial are obviously not confident in their product. It is a vital process because you have trial evidence to present to a customer and have full confidence in knowing that it works.”

The Sheriff Amenity Product Development Team, however, did not just stop at trialling ready-made products before deciding whether to add them to the company's portfolio. In a bold move, Johnny and Joe started requesting tailor-made products from the companies. Furthermore, in a bid to develop the most effective solutions, they rocked the status quo by mixing products from different manufacturers — many of whom would no doubt be competitors.

“The concept quickly developed and we started building on what was being offered to us,” said Johnny. “We have a wide range of expertise throughout Agrovista, Sheriff Amenity's parent company, with many who can identify how we can fill in any gaps within our portfolio. With that in mind, we decided to turn it on its head and went to the companies who were coming to us and asked them to build specific products because that is what we needed. We say we want a certain product or analysis and we find it really works.”

‘...With that in mind, we decided to turn it on its head and went to the companies who were coming to us and asked them to build specific products...’

Joe added: “To start with, we had a few issues with things like fungicide tank mixes. Understandably there were some manufacturers who were slightly reluctant in having their product mixed with another manufacturer's product. However, we are now seeing some really great partnerships and collaborations.”

All the resulting products created by the Product Development Team are always independently backed by trials and are tested by British Agrochemicals. Nothing is ever put to market without proof of it being effective and that it is ultimately safe to use. However, using chemicals is becoming more of a challenge with tighter legislation. Many have expiring or expired approvals for storage and use and the loss of important active ingredients is becoming more frequent than ever. So, does

this pose a problem for the team? Johnny doesn't seem to think so.

“Yes, there are chemicals going off the market but there are more coming on,” he explained. “Recently, we have looked at the demise of Chipco fungicide at 20 litres per hectare and you would think it would be the end of the world. This is not the case because our trials show that we have a better working fungicide: our new trial product Instrata Elite by Syngenta is 3 litres per hectare, so we are putting 17 fewer litres of chemical into the environment and getting better results.

“People think it is all doom and gloom but it's not — it is simply a changing world. Yes, we've got some challenges, with say chafer grubs, leather jackets, and worms — we have no pesticide controls for those and there is no magical solution. But with fungicides, weed killers and growth regulators, the armoury is still there and we can



still do the job; we just have to be clever in the way we use them."

"The good thing is, we are not scared to try new things," added Joe. "OK, we might not get it right all of the time, we do get things wrong, but then we start again, ensuring we get it right. This way, at least we know that everything we put our name to genuinely works. We want to be clear in what we are selling, we want to give customers the information and not hide anything."

Johnny and Joe are quite rightly proud of the Sherriff Amenity brochure, which features many of the products they have strived to create. However, in an industry which is overwhelmed by brochures, manufacturers and company representatives all urging turf managers to use their products, Joe believes the customers themselves should be more pro-active in deciding which products to use.

"There are two sides to this," he said. "The onus is on us, the manufacturers, to give greater clarity to the products we are selling, but the customer should also have a responsibility to ask better questions about the products they are buying. There is so much literature out there with very little substance attached — in many cases it is just a pretty story. The

customer should really ask 'What percentage am I buying?' 'How much nutrient is in there?' 'What type of nutrient is it?' In my experience, the end users simply do not ask enough questions."

It is safe to say that Johnny and Joe have a wealth of experience in speaking to turf and amenity customers. Both have spent their entire working lives in the industry and as well as working as part of the Product Development Team, they still continue in their roles as area managers for the company, with the two roles complimenting each other.

"Being area managers keeps us in tune with what is going on in the industry," said Joe. "We know what people want, how the industry is changing and we see it on a daily basis."

"Every time we visit a customer it potentially generates a new product development for the future," added Johnny. "We are always open to ideas and some of these ideas are coming directly from the customers, from colleagues, or through ourselves. We even come up with ideas by wandering around our agricultural stores and seeing what they are doing in that industry. In fact, we have developed a number of products that way. To be honest we are quite happy to grab them where we can and the whole concept is growing all the time."

Johnny and Joe have welcomed Tom Wood into their growing team, looking after the area of Yorkshire for the company. After starting his career as a greenkeeper, Tom worked as a tutor at Myerscough College, educating groundsman and greenkeepers before joining Sherriff. He is also currently studying for a turf science degree.

The Product Development Team consistently demonstrates the core values of Agrovista: innovation, access to the best technologies and the best people. In fact, the team is fortunate to have the backing of its parent company, whose technical expertise and phenomenal outreach benefits the cause in providing the products, services and opportunities their customers need, both now and in the future.

So, with an expanding team and a growing inventory of products and ideas — what else can we expect from the Sherriff Amenity Product Development Team?

"An online blog is on its way," said Joe. "The whole team will be contributing to that and it will contain weekly information specific to areas around the country, such as the weather and how things are growing, how the conditions relate to the product for that time of year and we will be making some specific recommendations on products and methods. Hopefully it will give people a few ideas."

"We are always working towards the future," added Johnny. "It enables us to be confident in what we do and what we want to be able to offer our customers. The highest reward is the feedback we get. At the end of the day the goal is to save them time, money and help them get better results from using less products. By all accounts it absolutely seems to be working."

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

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



Insight

The science of modern greenkeeping

The increasing role of disease forecasts

As we move into autumn, every greenkeeper fears waking up to a 'fuzz morning' — when there's been a heavy dew, no air movement and when temperatures are backing off with turf growth slowing.

From experience, you know when disease is likely to be kicking off, reports Syngenta Turf Technical Manager Glenn Kirby.

Rather than waiting for the conditions to occur and reacting to the disease having broken out, resulting in damaged leaf structures and reduced turf quality, forecasting the conditions conducive to disease could allow actions to reduce the infection pressure and prevent damage.

The science of disease forecasting enables greenkeepers to anticipate risk periods before they occur and to utilise the full package of integrated turf management (ITM) techniques to maintain clean surfaces — including better timing of preventative fungicide applications.

The role of disease models and forecasts has become increasingly important with changes in availability of fungicide actives, where extensive research trials clearly indicate that preventative application — before visible signs of infection damage are seen — has given consistently better results.

Predicting pressure

Using the pioneering GreenCast disease forecasting models as a prime example, US turf specialist, Dr Karl Danneberger, professor at the Ohio State University, developed a series of weather factors that would indicate the specific risk for a wide range of disease outbreaks — along with a quantifiable scale of the risk (see table right).

In the case of Microdochium (Fusarium) patch, for example, his model looked at the combinations of temperature and moisture he recognised as the prime elements in disease development.

To test if Dr Danneberger's models would prove effective under UK conditions and with the native disease pathogens, the models were built into the GreenCast system and robustly tested by Dr Ruth Mann at the STRI research facility.

Dr Mann ran a series of trials looking at fungicide application timings in three situations: (a) routine application at set intervals; (b) application when disease was first seen active on

Mean Temperature °C	Moisture source	Microdochium pressure scale
Below 0 — 0	Coupled with records or forecasts of three rain events in any of six previous days	0
0 — 2		1
2 — 3		2
3 — 4		3
4 — 7		4
7 — 9		3
9 — 12		2
12 — 18		1
18		0

A mean daily temperature of 7°C is typically seen from an average high of 10–11°C and a low of 4–5°C — which is normal October–November averages in England (Sept–Oct for Scotland).

the surfaces and (c) based purely on the GreenCast model of high disease risk periods.

The trials demonstrated that, even when used in a very simplistic approach, the applications based on the disease model forecast maintained consistently better turf quality throughout the season from the use of fewer, better timed, fungicide applications overall, compared to routine use or treatment at the first signs of disease.

The report pointed out that in some periods and in some seasons, the forecasting system would result in a greater number of applications. However at other times less would

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be required and, overall, could lead to a reduced input to achieve a better result.

There is a clear relation between weather conditions and disease risk, but Dr Mann's trials highlighted how disease models should be used as a part of the overall decision making process, along with the greenkeepers' skills and experience to interpret the information for their own individual situation.

Applying models in practice

The challenge with all models is that they only use weather data. A model will not pick up on the type of site, soil types, grass species, shade levels or condition of turf, for example. Furthermore, in practice there are often a number of greenkeeping actions going on during early autumn that would



Left: Karl Danneberger

Right: Glen Kirby

influence disease outbreaks.

None of the above practices in the table (below) can be picked up by a forecasting model but they will all significantly impact the vulnerability of the plant to disease activity.

On the flip side, there are a number of ITM actions, such as brushing or switching surfaces to remove moisture, alternating rolling with cutting and ensuring blades are sharp to minimise leaf damage, which will all contribute to reducing the risk of disease outbreaks under infection pressure.

The understanding of how disease models work in conjunction with real life experience enables more effective judgments. For example, if you see a short risk period approaching but turf is healthy and growing strongly, there may be a proactive decision not to apply a fungicide. But if you know turf is stressed and under pressure, a period of medium to high risk could trigger an infection outbreak that a treatment could successfully avoid.

Future developments

To remain valid, however, disease models have to reflect changing situations and research developments. For example, while rainfall is a key element of the moisture that is essential for *Microdochium nivale* to develop, relative humidity is a better measure of the conditions conducive to disease. More accurate weather data on GreenCast allows five-day

forecasts of relative humidity in four-hourly blocks, which could be built into further refining the disease forecast model.

In early autumn, GreenCast forecasts show relative humidity could typically exceed 90% before 8am on over 50% of days in October, even if it drops to below 40% by midday. The crucial understanding is how long the leaf surface remains wet and the implication of that on pathogen development in relation to the temperature.

Furthermore, disease pathogens also evolve and respond different to climatic conditions. More aggressive strains of pathogen may be able to go through their life-cycles faster, at lower temperatures and humidity, for example — requiring models to be adapted and updated.

One of the key advantages of computerised models is that the parameters of the forecasts can be quickly changed, and the 'what if...' scenarios drawn out, to look at potential issues and management practices required to counter threats.

Models will continue to be developed, improved and validated in real life situations to ensure they accurately reflect what will happen on the course. They will help to support more effective future turf management decisions.

Action	Disease risk implication
Verti-cutting	Damaging leaf surfaces lets hyphae ingress
Topdressing	Retains moisture and humidity
Brushing	Stresses and damages leaves
Additional feed to aid recovery	Creates soft growth susceptible to infection
Heavy irrigation to move topdressing into the sward	Extends leaf wetness and humidity



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East

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As the leaves fall and darker mornings arrive, winter projects get underway. At Mortonhall we are undergoing the biggest changes to the course since 1979, with the guidance of Tom Mackenzie from Mackenzie and Ebert. We have gone with a new company for the contract work, Golfink, who's résumé has some of the top course in the UK, such as Trump Turnberry, Trump Doonbeg and many others. When they finish the work at Mortonhall they will be heading to Loch Lomond.



Central

Craig Boath

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Congratulations to Sandy Reid, who will take over from Gordon Moir as the Director of Golf at St Andrews.

There are a few seminars in the pipeline as we speak so keep looking out for an email or through Facebook for details. Get in touch if your email address changes.

The autumn outing was held at Elmwood last month and a great day was had. Thanks to Elmwood for their hospitality. Prize winners: Scott Robertson, Strathmore, Best Scratch, BIGGA Trophy; G. Bolton, gWest, Rosebowl, Best Spring and Autumn combined; R. Devlin, St Andrews, Best Stableford, Soutar Trophy; C. Boath, Carnoustie, 2nd Class, SMG Cup; G. Moir, St Andrews, 1st Class, Rigby Taylor Cup

Date for diary: Tuesday 13 November, education day at Ladybank.



North

Neil Sadler

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Firstly we would like to congratulate George Paterson from Fortrose and Rosemarkie on winning the Scottish championship at Kilmarnock Barassie.

George has emulated Chris Lamb's success last year in taking the championship back to the north. Here's hoping you can win the British as well!

A highland education day will be held at Nairn Dunbar on Wednesday 14 November. A North Section education day will be held at Portlethen on Tuesday 20 November. The cost of the day will be £20, to include bacon roll and a coffee on arrival and lunch. You will also be eligible for six CPD points. Speakers at the highland education day include Iain Macleod, Carolyn Hedley and Allan Patterson. At the North educational day the speakers include Robert Patterson, Carolyn Hedley and Chris Haspell.



SW Scotland

Robert Tosh

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With the best summer weather in recent memory coming to an end, I hope your golf courses are starting to recover from the turf stress that this brings. I hope you all managed to enjoy the golfing season and got to top up your t-shirt sun tans!

Our thoughts will now turn to our autumn maintenance programmes in the coming weeks to help aid with recovery and dare I say it, hopefully some much-needed rainfall is forecast. Not often we say that in the west of Scotland!

Kilmarnock Barassie hosted the BIGGA Scottish Championships and congratulations to all the winners. The golf course was in excellent condition and a huge congratulation goes to Brian Finlayson and all his staff.

Congratulations also go to Scott Corrigan of Royal Troon who has been awarded the SWS 2018 Patron award. I'm sure Scott will experience a great year that being the Patron winner brings, with trips to Harrogate and also the STRI research day, so well done Scott.



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The NI BIGGA day was at Massereene and Aaron Small won it this year with a great round of golf. I'd like to thank everyone at Massereene and John and Rachael from BIGGA for a great day out. We're looking forward to some really good days next year.

Rodney McKay of Gargorm Castle contributed to this month's article.

Gargorm Castle once again held the Northern Ireland Open in August. The NI Open is a European Challenge Tour event with golfers from across the globe.

It was a very tough summer with the long spell of very dry weather causing problems that we are not normally used to in Northern Ireland. Throughout the summer our team put in lots of early mornings and late nights, trying to keep the course watered and presented to a high standard. Growing the rough up in these conditions was a challenge, but thankfully we got some rain in the run up to the event. This helped us produce a challenging course for the tour pros. One of the biggest challenges for us is post event and lowering the maintained rough from the 120mm for the event back to the usual 50mm for normal play. Our team at Gargorm was assisted by two volunteer greenkeepers, one from a local club and one from southern Ireland. The help and professionalism they brought to the team was very much appreciated. Next year sees the event take on a new format. The Ladies European Tour will join the Challenge Tour in a joint event. The first two days will be played over both Gargorm and Massereene, then after the cut the conclusion of the event will be played at Gargorm.

We've set up a new Facebook page for NI and it's Bigga Northern Ireland. There was a mix up with name changes for the past ones so we have started afresh.

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Section News

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hear what's
been going on
in your section

Email your news to
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Where did that month go? I blinked and it was gone. Renovation time is fast approaching and now I've cured my greens' dose of herpes I'm going to upset all the members by tearing into the greens! Notice boards, social media and club emails at the ready, with countless messages of why we need to do it, just to make sure they all know what's going to happen in the coming weeks. Then cue the customary complaints. Tin hat on time preparing myself for the onslaught of questions. "When was this decided?" and the usual "I didn't know about this". I love this time of year!

We're still looking for names and numbers for the Cleveland v North East go-kart challenge on Wednesday 10 October in Newcastle. There will be a £10 per person charge which will go towards funding future events — possibly a rematch once we trounce the North East section. Numbers for this event are limited so it's on a first come, first served basis. Please contact me if you are interested in going

Unfortunately the autumn tournament has had to be cancelled. Low turn out due to everyone aerating/coring has meant the day has been postponed until October. Any money paid can be returned or carried over no problem. A new date will be posted as soon as it arranges.



North West
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After three months of dry weather, the rain is certainly letting us know it's back with a vengeance. This has kicked off growth once again and I'm sure everyone has seen a remarkable recovery from most of the areas on the golf course. Send in some before and after pictures, it would be interesting to see.

At this time of year many people are trying to plan winter projects and budgets for next year. It is vital to fully communicate with the golf club your

intentions and priorities, so they fully understand what is possible and, if they don't take the advice of their own professional greenkeeper, what the results may or may not be.

The communication theme is a hot topic at the moment and it has been very interesting to read on social media many of the very personal stories from greenkeepers all over the country. This is a wonderful but very testing industry with help just around the corner for anyone that needs it. Take a look!

Congratulations to Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winners Daniel Ashelby and Danny Patten, both from the North West section. You can read more from them elsewhere in this magazine.



North East
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The BIGGA Autumn golf day will be held at Ravensworth on Wednesday 24 October. First tee will be at 10am, bacon roll, coffee or tea beforehand and a two course meal to finish the day off. £15 per BIGGA member and £24 for non-members. Please come along to what will be another fantastic golf day with lots of prizes and low scores.

We have a great evening booked on Wednesday 10 October. We will be holding a go-karting event against the Cleveland section. Limited spaces available, so please reserve your place by texting me on 07814 565 360. We will be Meeting at Team Sport Newcastle at 5.50pm for the induction. £10 per person. Team Sport is based along Scotswood Road, Newcastle NE15 6UX.

Declan Box from Tynemouth has completed his NVQ level 3 within the last few weeks and got married back in August. Busy year for you Declan, congratulations!

We are looking to hold two chainsaw courses at Morpeth, around the second week of February 2019. We have two options: crosscutting, held over two days at £130, or crosscutting and felling up to 200mm, which is over four days at £210. If anyone is interested please email me on paul_walton14@hotmail.co.uk.



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The past month saw the very sad loss of Gary Marsh. Gary was head greenkeeper at Hickleton and was doing a fine job until his illness. Our sincere condolences go to his wife and children.

The summer meeting finally took place at Wortley on 22 August, with the course still playing firm and fast after the summer's warm weather. Scoring was tricky, but defending champion Mick Dwyer was victorious once again. The event was followed up by some superb hospitality and food in the clubhouse at Wortley, as well as being entertained by Paul Bracey.

Our continued thanks go to Rigby Taylor, Mansfield Sand, Premier Pitches & Russell's Groundcare who sponsor our golf days. Without their sponsorship these days wouldn't be possible.

There's still time to enter the autumn meeting, which is going to take place at Ganton on 17 October at 10.30am. Please let Sandra Raper know if you wish to play in this event. A minibus may be available event so the sooner you let Sandra know the better.

Congratulations to Rob Acheson, Workop, and Alex Birks on their marriage. We hope you have many happy years together.



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Here we are moving from summer into autumn, from the heat of July and August into some cooler weather. There are some good projects happening around the BB&O, from the bunker project at Harewood Downs to the new greenkeeping facility here at Harleyford.

There has also been some shocking vandalism over at Beaconsfield, with trail bikes ripping up some greens there. Stuart, we all hope they recover in good time for winter and all feel for you and your team.

Our penultimate golf day of the year was held at Oxford GC. The sun came out and the rain stayed away. My golf was very average, unlike Danny Allsworth's as he scooped top spot with 38 points. Matt Nutter came in second with 36 points and there was a count back with five people on 35 points. Tony May sneaked in with 14 points in the last six holes. Simon Freshwater shot close on the 4th and 17th greens to get the NTP. Steve Doyle, George Bell and Peter Helps also shot close on the other par threes. Thanks to Doug and his team for preparing the course. It was a great day and now we look forward to the turkey trot at Frilford Heath on 14 December.

Please keep your eyes on our Facebook page for updates on forthcoming events.



Mid Anglia

Darren Mugford

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The weather is once again proving to be awkward with another extended period of drought. Let's be hopeful that we get some showers which will help recovery and renovations that have taken place. We will be entering a different challenge this autumn with the emphasis on disease prevention due to the removal of contact fungicide earlier in the year. Application timings of preventative fungicides, correct nutrition and weather watching will all be key in making this work over the coming months. As per the August article in Greenkeeper

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Section News

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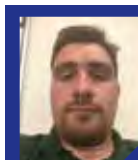
Email your news to
Karl@bigga.co.uk



Beedles Lake won the Par 3 event

International conducted by STRI, prevention is better than cure and is the only solution going forward. Good Luck all and let's hope Mother Nature is kind for the rest of the year.

We are pleased to announce our next golf outing for 2018 will be held at Berkhamsted on 22 October so please look out for details coming your way and put the date in your diary. Always a popular event so get your entry in soon.



East of England

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Unfortunately our autumn golf and education event at Kenwick Park had to be cancelled due to the event clashing with SALTEX and also due to no speakers being available. We have since rearranged and the event will now be held on Tuesday 9 October at Cleethorpes. The AGM will be held at Woodhall Spa on 8 November with a full programme of education, a course walk and a programme of speakers, all of which will be disseminated shortly. If you require any additional information contact 07969 671 512 or golfer.ives@gmail.com

Congratulations to Rob Welford on his charity cycle from Lands End to John O'Groats in September, raising money for Parkinson's UK.

Congratulations also to Matthew Shaul and his fiancé Rachel Richardson for raising £700 for British Inclusive Golf by undertaking 72 holes in a day held at Cleethorpes Golf Club.



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Our AGM at Mickleover took place on 3 October. Our next and final event for the year is our Christmas competition, which will be held at Charnwood Forest golf club on 12 December. Roger will send out entries nearer the time.

We had our par 3 event at Beedles Lake and it was a great day. The team from Beedles Lake won the day, beating teams from Rigby Taylor and Forest Hill into 2nd and 3rd respectively. The food as always was great, so a massive thanks to firstly all the staff at Beedles Lake and Platts Harris for sponsoring the event.

We are down to the final for the AGS pairs competition with the team of Paul French and Jordan Baker making the final to play last year's winner Nigel Colley and Asa English. No date has been set yet but I will let everyone know the result as soon as possible.

We also have an education day set for 20 November. The venue is yet to be confirmed and this will be a half day event brought to us by Rainbird. Details will be released when we have them.



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The Players has been busy with two events, the PGA West Region Championship and European Tour Qualifying School Stage 1. The field of 132 vying for only 25 spots over 72 holes meant conditions on the course were under close scrutiny. The event was held on the old course layout of 7,300 yards.

The eight members of staff, including head, deputy and even the mechanic, were all involved with course preparations for this event. With a week remaining before the tournament, extra attention and cuts were put on all aspects of the course from tees, aprons, fairways, semi rough, tee and green banks. The exception to this was the rough, which was not cut to add an extra difficulty to the course. But not only this, all the small touches around the course were tended to, including fly-mowing, strimming and hedge trimming.

Not only were the full-time staff hard at work for the preparations, but the club's members all got stuck in, with helping to trim sprinkler heads, distance markers and in between all this they organised a fairway divot night which really helped Nick Perkins and his team greatly.

From the whole week it was agreed the course was in great condition, which was backed up by compliments from the tour and the players. This event has been secured at The Players for three years so there was also things they learnt and want to try and improve on for next year. Some of these were down to the extreme conditions in the summers as they believed the fairways weren't as good as they wanted. Unfortunately that's sometimes out of our hands due to lack of resources, staff and rain!

Moving forwards, Nick has a full year to plan for the event, instead of a couple months. They will be focusing on a hole-by-hole assessment to ensure the progression for the event can be achieved. Great work by all the team.

The section's next event will be the AGM on 17th October at Lilley Brook GC followed by a course walk by Nigel Thompson, so we look forward to seeing you all there.



South Coast: Defence Academy came in 1st



South Coast: Rowlands Castle came in 2nd



South Coast: High Post hosted the South Coast leg of the Golf Management Trophy



South Wales: The winning Gloucester team from the Golf Management Trophy



South Coast Jim Fancey

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The South Coast Section held our Golf Management Trophy at High Post on 11 September.

Many thanks to all the teams who entered on what was a fantastic day and with tough competition.

Section News

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

Email your news to
Karl@bigga.co.uk

The overall winners were Defence Academy GC and a very close second were Rowlands Castle GC.

We'll be supporting you all the way in the next round. Good luck everyone.

A massive thanks to our hosts on the day and to Tom Freeman and his team for all your hard work and for producing a magnificent golf course. Brilliant effort.



South Wales Tom Howells

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Finally things are starting to green up after being covered in snow at the start of the year and then becoming brown with the warm sun!

Well done to the team from Gloucester who won the Golf Management Trophy at The Worcestershire this month. Close behind were Patshull Park and in third was the club's own team of The Worcestershire.

FTMI applications are now open so if you're keen on stepping up the ranks and eventually working your way up to management level then definitely apply. It's a great course and there are plenty of skills to be learnt.



Devon & Cornwall Neil Rogers

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I'll start this month following on from last month, with the movement of Garry Foster to Yelverton starting a small domino effect. John Welsford has taken the job at Tavistock and Chris Hale has taken the job vacated by John at The Warren. They are both good greenkeepers who will no doubt make successful moves to their new clubs. We wish all of you the best of luck in your new roles.

How wrong was I last month? I'll keep my musings about the weather to myself after being moaned to, saying the weather had broken! Speaking to guys recently who said that they have very or little no recordable rain yet in September, what a strange year we have been having.



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Section News

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Thursday 23 August saw us hold our annual National Qualifier at Boyce Hill. On another hot day the course was in excellent condition thanks to Andy and his crew. The winners were: 1st, Andy Pledger, 37pts; 2nd, Stewart Rogers, 36pts; 3rd, Andy Harding, 35pts; 4th, Cassidy Steffens, 34pts; 5th, Dave Briffaut, 32pts; Guest prize, Adam Millward, 39pts; Trade prize, Huw Morgan, 33pts; Nearest pin on 4th, Pete Smith; Nearest in two on 6th, Liam Springett; Nearest pin on 18th, Stewart Rogers; Straightest drive on 13th, Stuart Kerrison; Longest drive on 16th Ross Surridge.

As Andy Pledger is moving on to new pastures at ICL (good luck Andy), Stewart Rogers and Andy Harding will be representing the section at the Nationals. We would like to thank everyone at Boyce Hill for allowing the event and also for their friendly hospitality throughout the day. Also a big thank you to the trade and all those who donated prizes for the raffle.

The next two events will appear in November's issue, but if you cannot wait to then the results will be on the Essex website. These are:

25 September, Romford, SE team challenge. Good luck to the team of Ian Nichols, Dave Briffaut, Andy Toomey, Chris Gibson, Cassidy Steffens, Ross Surridge. Reserves Andy Harding, Stewart Rogers.

3 October, Little Channels, The Essex BIGGA South East Region partners showcase event.



London
Kevin O'Neill
@kevodale76
londonsection@bigga.
co.uk

The latest golf day was held on 12 September at Muswell Hill with Banks Amenity being the sponsor for the day. Three places were up for the grabs for the section team to play in the South East Region match, so all to play for. Graeme Jones, Muswell Hill, completed

an historic 'twofer' (winning both golf days so far!) with a well-earned 36 points. Wes Lenihan, Ealing, 34pts, John Wells, South Herts, 33pts, Kyle Adams, Muswell Hill, 32pts and Chris Sharp, Hampstead, 32pts, completed the prizes and qualified for the section team. Nearest the pin prize winners were Oliver Crompton, Mark Smith, Chris Sharp and Simon Banks. Best trade prize went to Matt Corbould, MR Amenity, with a fine knock of 37 points.

Thanks to the sponsors for another successful day.



Sussex
Chris Humphrey
@CTCChrisH
chris@collier-
turf-care.co.uk

The section will be holding the AGM at 9am on Tuesday 20 November at Bognor Regis. The day will continue from 10am until 3pm with presentations from the regional sponsors.

Remember to put the date in your diary for the turkey trot on Friday 7 December at Worthing.

If you have anything of interest for the section, please contact me on 07912 669 457 or chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk

The third golf day of the year took place at Middleton Hall on 16 August. It was a wet and miserable start to the day, although it did brighten up later on. The main sponsors were Ben Burgess and Greensman. The day was attended by a good number considering the weather. Nearest pin prizes: Hole 2, Andy Baker; Hole 4, Graham Hurren; Hole 11, Mike Johnson; Hole 13, Tony Thacker; Hole 15, Stuart Edge; Nearest pin 7 in 2, Adam Lewarne; Nearest pin 18 in 3, Adam Lewarne. Longest drive, Jim Harrison. Handicap group winners: 0-9, 1st, Graham Hurren, 32pts; 2nd, Mike Virley, 26pts; 10-18, 1st, Tony Thacker, 38pts (overall day winner); 2nd, Steve Curtis, 33pts; 19-28, 1st, Andy Baker, 34pts; 2nd, Terry Carver, 27pts. Trade & Guest: 1st, Dale King, 36pts; 2nd, Russell Rayner, 31pts. Regional qualifiers are Tony Thacker and Steve Curtis. A spelling correction from last month: Terry Carver not Calver. There was also a ball chuck onto the 18th green from the clubhouse balcony to raise money for the BIGGA Benevolent Fund. In addition Mike Johnson, the owner, donated a bottle of whisky to the winner, which Andy Baker won by holing out. The total raised for BIGGA Benevolent Fund was £47.

Thank you to Mike and his team's hospitality on and off the course and also all the other trade that attended.

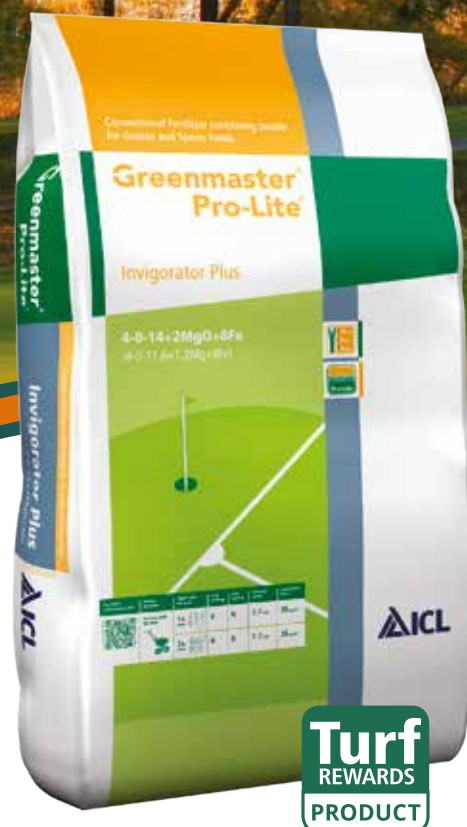
The next meeting will be at Royal Norwich on 18 October.



Ollie Crompton celebrating his nearest the pin

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BIGGA
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association





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Everything you need to develop your career in greenkeeping

Careers

New: Links Forum

Continue to Learn at BTME launches this month, and with it some exciting new additions to the already packed programme. Included in this is the Links Forum specifically aimed at those working on or interested in Links courses. Alistair Beggs, of the STRI is just one of the many speakers at this years event, here he offers an overview of his talk.

Monoculture or multiculture — Which is preferable in a links environment?

There is a debate among those managing and playing links courses about sward composition and the preferred grass balance that should exist on greens. The debate revolves around sward composition and which is the preferred mix or blend for optimum performance.

Most links courses offer a blend of grasses on their greens. The component grasses will vary from site to site with species such as fescues, bents, meadow

grasses, rye, crested hair grass and Yorkshire fog all part of what many would describe as a natural links sward. Within this multiculture scenario some clubs are successful at selecting certain of these grasses to dominate and provided enhanced textural and performance properties for golf.

Other links protagonists believe that the fine leaved fescues are the botanical elixir and will

Alistair Beggs, STRI



stop at nothing to achieve a fescue dominant sward. In some cases, the exclusion of all other species using chemical and or mechanical methods is the objective. This, where successful, leads to the development of a grass monoculture — a sward exclusively dominated by one grass type.

Which approach is correct? In truth there is no right or wrong, but the multiculture approach is probably the most sustainable and the one which best mimics the natural links environment.

Links systems support a range of grasses so why on golf greens should fescue be sought exclusively?

The potential merit of adopting the single grass approach is the creation of a purer and more uniform surface. However, we know fescues only really grow strongly in the June to September period, with chewings fescues normally starting earlier than slender creeping reds. With golf now being played year-round and winter and spring pressures very great, having a blend with browntop bents, which do better in winter and spring conditions in the UK, may be a better approach.

‘The right blend for one course might be different from the right blend for another.’

Browntops blend very effectively with fescues and blends in turf trials at Bingley since the 1920's have always performed well and formed the basis for bent and fescue seed and turf mixes, which still prevail in the industry today.

Furthermore, in biological and ecological terms, multicultures not only provide traits of all component grasses but are generally accepted as a better model for long term sustainable success.

The right blend for one course might be different from the right blend for another. This may be influenced by climate, sand structure or physics and site pH, among other variables. Fescues are favoured by dry climates with higher pH levels. Therefore, it is no use expecting them to perform year-round in wetter more acidic situations. Browntop bents may do better on such sites.

Trump Turnberry



Finally, many of our great links courses are used for championship golf and consideration must be given to the requirements of the game at elite level. The pressures placed on turf preparation are considerable in the modern age, so having swards that are robust and well blended is vital. Thin swards dominated by fine leaved fescues may not always provide the same durability of a bent and fescue blend under high levels of maintenance.

The session will discuss and debate all these elements and attempt to provide the best direction and advice for all involved.

The full details of the Links Forum are over the page

Want to book more courses at BTME? Your copy of the Continue to Learn Brochure is included with this magazine



Managing Native Bents Without Stressing Fescue

The management of native bents can be one of the biggest headaches for links managers trying to promote fescues within the sward.

Learning Outcomes:

- Location and brief information on Burnham & Berrow
- Brief history of sward composition
- Changes in greens maintenance over the last 15 years
- Chemical control
- Current management strategy to control our native bents
- Future strategy of our native bents

Presented by Richard Whyman, Course Manager, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club

Monoculture or Multiculture — Which is Preferable in a Links Environment?

This session will discuss grass composition objectives for links courses, the difference between multicultures and monocultures and how to achieve the right botanical outcome for both member and championship play.

Learning Outcomes:

- What a grass monoculture is and the impact this has on management and performance
- What a grass multiculture is and the impact this has on management and performance
- Appreciate the benefits of blending grasses from an agronomic and ecological perspective
- The strengths and weaknesses of component grasses
- How to develop the right blend for your course and the techniques used in this process
- Requirements for making such mixes/blends work at the highest level of golf

Presented by Alistair Beggs, Head of Agronomy and Ecology, STRI Group

'The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.'

B. B. King

Soil Surfactants and Irrigation Management

Soil surfactants or wetting agents are often a crucial tool in managing turfgrasses, especially in sandy conditions. This session will focus on how surfactants can improve water retention and distribution in the soil.

Learning Outcomes:

- The cause of localised dry spot
- How wetting agents overcome localised dry spot
- Can wetting agents be used to improve irrigation applications?
- Determine if there are differences in wetting agents – movers vs retainers
- Assess if wetting agents can affect surface playability

Presented by Dr Mike Richardson, Professor, University of Arkansas

To find out more about the Continue to Learn Programme for 2019 look out for your copy with this magazine

Coul Links — The Story So Far

This session will look at the planning and construction of the new 18 hole championship links golf course at Embo, Dornoch. It will discuss the project from the beginning, right up to where they are now....

Presented by Chris Haspell, Project Manager/General Manager, Coul Links

High Budget vs Low Budget

In this session two links managers will discuss how their budgets and resources control what they do and how it effects the way they manage their golf courses.

Presented by Allan Patterson, Director of Golf Courses & Estates, Trump Turnberry and Stuart Imeson, Golf Course Manager, Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club



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

Jonathan Wood, St Andrews Links Trust; Simon Olver, Whitley Bay; Daniel Ashelby, The Mere; Cameron Campbell, SRUC (Elmwood); David Stewart, Walmley; John Watson, Downfield; Leigh Powell, Windlesham; Ashley Allpress, Roehampton; Steven Hemsley, Bolton Old Links; Natasha Repinskaja, St Andrews Links Trust; Derrick Johnstone, East Berkshire; Tom Coulson, Royal St Georges

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

Jonathan Wood, St Andrews Links Trust; John Watson, Downfield



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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



Careers

Apprentice Corner

Thomas Sherreard | London Golf Club

Tom takes first place

Careers

Thomas Sherreard of London Golf Club has become the first candidate to pass the new Apprentice Standard for Golf Greenkeepers.

And he did so with style, with the Hadlow College apprentice achieving a Distinction grade as reward for all his hard work.

For Thomas, 31, the pressure was on as he is due to become the father of identical twin girls during October, meaning he will no longer have time spare to concentrate on his studies.

Tom said: "It's a great honour and to have achieved this after so much hard work feels really great. Myself and my partner, Claire, are due to welcome twins into our family soon so completing the apprenticeship at the first time of asking was certainly a priority!"

Thomas taking
stimpmeter readings
during his assessment



The Level 2 Golf Greenkeeper qualification was launched in September 2016 and concludes with an End-Point Assessment that takes the form of an online exam, a trainee statement and a series of practical tasks.

Tom received a Distinction in all three categories and Anthony Stockwell, greenkeeping and sports turf course manager at Hadlow College, where Tom undertook his training, said: "Tom was an outstanding student who truly deserves this accolade. His determination to succeed has been a testament to his attitude and his approach to life. It has been great to see him grow and develop his confidence over the duration of his course and this accolade will hold him in a fantastic position for the future."

'It's a great honour and to have achieved this after so much hard work feels really great...'

‘Tom was an outstanding student who truly deserves this accolade...’

The End-Point Assessment

1. Two-hour online knowledge exam, consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. Contributes 30% of overall grade.
2. Full day of practical assessments and professional discussions, all selected by an Independent End-Point Assessor, with the candidate unaware of what tasks will be chosen until the day. Professional discussion includes knowledge of soils, plant identification, mowing regimes, tractor driving with preparation of attachments, aeration, coring equipment and hole changing. Contributes 50% of overall grade.
3. Short reflective statement about apprenticeship, looking at skills and knowledge gained through completing the portfolio. Contributes 20% of overall grade.

The Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship is available to all greenkeepers, regardless of age, and on successful completion, candidates achieve the Level 2 Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping qualification. Apprentices can be existing or new employees at the golf club and through their apprenticeship they will gain wider skills and knowledge to progress within their chosen greenkeeping career.

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), BIGGA and City & Guilds have been working tirelessly to make this new qualification a success, with a number of meeting groups and standardisation training over the last few years to ensure this qualification represented a fair challenge to all candidates. It is City & Guilds who provide the team of assessors who undertake the End-Point Assessment.



Tom's graduation also marks the first End-Point Assessment within the City & Guilds' Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care route and Senior Manager Robin Jackson said: "We are thankful for all the support and guidance we have received from the golf greenkeeping industry and look forward to maintaining the close working relationship in the future."

"Ultimately, we believe that with industry backing for the standard and City & Guilds End-Point Assessment, employers and apprentices will continue to have confidence in greenkeeping as a rewarding professional career."



Meet the apprentice: Tom Sherreard

Tom is part of the team maintaining the London Golf Club's Jack Nicklaus Signature Heritage course, which played host to the 2008 and 2009 European Open. The International course played host to the 2018 Staysure PGA Seniors Championship and the 2014 Volvo World Match Play.

Primarily, Tom works on the Heritage course under the management of Golf Course and Estate Manager Lee Sayers and the guidance of Head Greenkeeper Darren Cuddihy. Tom was heavily involved in maintaining the International course for the Staysure PGA Seniors Championship. The tournament was a great opportunity for Tom to test his greenkeeping skills and it was only three days before his End-Point Assessment, representing a very busy August for Tom.

A former golfer on the Alps Tour, Tom was part of the team that won the Kent Golf Union's amateur foursomes this year (pictured above). He also took part in Final Qualifying for this year's Open at Princes in Kent, playing a practice round with Retief Goosen.

Lee Sayers said: "I am really pleased that Tom has achieved a distinction for his level 2 qualification, but not at all surprised as his organisation and planning, along with his maturity, comes out in his work every day."



Careers

Apprentice Corner

Andy Wight | Oaklands College

Taking Tom through his assessment

Careers

Andy Wight was City & Guilds' independent end-point assessor for Tom Sherreard and gave an overview of the first End-Point Assessment for the new Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Standard.

It's 7am in the morning and it's beginning to rain after one of the longest dry spells for months. I am at the London Golf Club to carry out the first End-Point Assessment for a greenkeeper to take place in England.

I felt awed by the fact the student's future career could depend on my judgement. If he fails he only gets one more chance to resit.

I met the apprentice and his manager over a coffee and we completed the formalities of checking identification and confirming what tasks will be assessed.

To get here, the candidate has already passed the "Gateway". This is a formal recognition that the candidate is ready to move to the End-Point Assessment. This step includes:

1. Holding Level 1 English and Maths;
2. Having sat or held Level 2 English and Maths (GCSE A-C);

3. Completed all the criteria in the GTC training manual;
4. Has been agreed as meeting the behaviours in the greenkeeper standard.

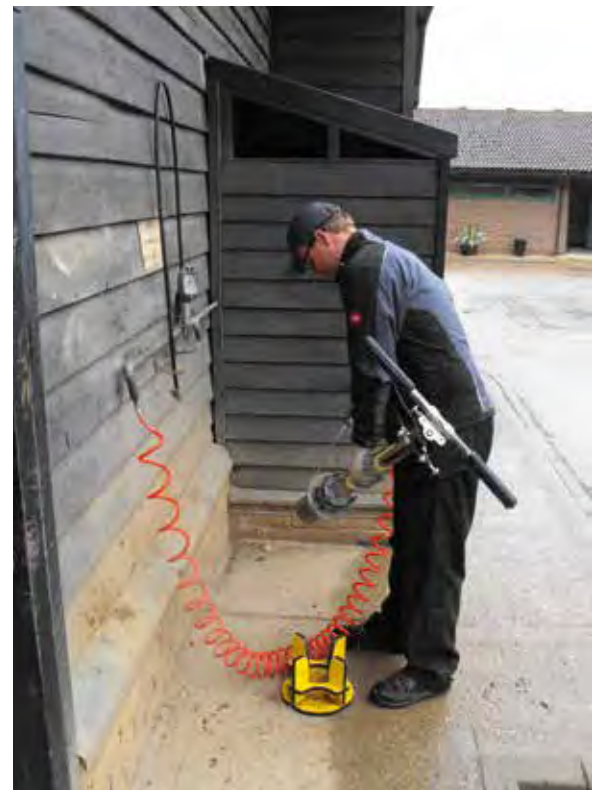
In addition to this, the employer and student must sign to say they have completed the 20% off-the-job training.

Once through the Gateway, the apprentice must have passed the greenkeeping apprenticeship written exam. Only then can they attempt the EPA practical day.

My first task was to examine Tom's portfolio, which clearly showed he had met the required standard.

The next step was the course walk. In this part of the assessment the candidate has to walk me from tee to green on a hole of their choice.

Tom began by giving me some history of the course. Then we began the assessment, with Tom identifying the soil and grass types as well as the heights of cut for all the areas. Tom was also able



Thomas cleaning hole-changing equipment

Opposite page: Thomas during the various stages of his assessment

to note some issues with chafers, badgers and other problems that had occurred in the last 12 months. In addition, he explained a range of maintenance activities that have taken place on the hole over the previous year and the reasons for these activities.

‘This was an excellent result for the first greenkeeping apprentice in the country...’

For a successful course walk apprentices will need to:

- Carry out a verbal risk assessment;
- Identify the soil types present;
- Identify two grasses present and three other plants present;
- Explain a range of operations that have taken place in the last 12 months on the hole;
- Know the height and frequency of cut on the turf areas on that hole and how they change over the year;
- Identify any threats to the health of turf, such as pests, diseases or disorders.

The more information they give, the higher the grade will be.

When we reached the green we carried out part of the course set-up assessment. Tom took stimpmeter readings and explained how speed can be altered to suit various levels of play.

After successfully completing the course walk we moved on to the rest of the course set-up assessment. We returned to the compound to collect all the equipment required for this next stage. Here Tom had to mark out GUR, drop zones and out of bounds. Once again Tom completed the tasks to a very high standard and showed a great level of knowledge regarding the rules for play surrounding the markings.

As we were near a green we also carried out one of the practical tasks I selected, which was to change the hole on a green.

For a successful course set-up assessment the candidate must:

- Know all the course markings, their colours and meanings and be able to mark them out;
- Know how to measure green speed and make use of the data and understand how to alter speed.

The next step was to carry out the other two practical tasks that I'd planned. Tom proved himself to meet the behaviours criteria of being a good and effective communicator and having a health and safety mindset.

Lastly, we moved to the third practical task, which is to use a tractor with equipment.

Needless to say, Tom wore the correct PPE throughout the assessment. Not doing so could result in a fail. All the equipment was well maintained and met health and safety regulations. Had this not been the case, I may have had to cancel the assessment at great cost to the employer in terms of a resit fee. Before the assessment the employer has to sign that all the equipment required will be in a safe and suitable condition on the day.

How did Tom do? I'm pleased to say that he obtained the highest grade, a distinction. This was an excellent result for the first greenkeeping apprentice in the country. This result is a reward for the effort Tom has put into his studies and for the support he has obtained from his managers at the London Golf Club and from his training provider Hadlow College.

To all apprentices I would say always do your best as what you plant now, you will harvest later. If you're an apprentice, putting the effort in during your training will mean you will be able to harvest a great result at your EPA.





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First Assistant Greenkeeper North Foreland Golf Club

This is a great opportunity to join the greenkeeping team.

The club is located on the East Kent coast with stunning sea views from all 36 holes. We are a windswept, free-draining chalk, downland course which produces great playing conditions year-round, making it one of busiest members' clubs in the country.

The successful candidate will ideally have the following

- At least two years' experience in greenkeeping
- NVQ 2 Greenkeeping

- An ability to lead others
- Spraying Certificates PA2 & PA6
- Good communication skills

The club is very progressive with staff training and further education.

Salary will be dependent on experience.

Apply by email to:
simon@northforeland.co.uk



Senior Assistant Greenkeeper Copt Heath Golf Club

Copt Heath is recognised as one of the leading clubs in the Midlands and being located on free-draining heathland soil is playable all year round on full greens with few closure days. Due to retirement we are looking for a Senior Assistant Greenkeeper to complement our current team as soon as possible, to help with the day to day maintenance and development of the course.

Experience and qualifications required:

- NVQ 2/3 or equivalent
- Spraying licences for PA1, PA2, PA6
- Chainsaw licence preferred
- 5 years' experience working on a golf course
- Good communication skills
- Ability to work unsupervised and in a team

The salary will be dependent upon experience. Please apply by emailing your CV to:
tony@coptheathgolf.co.uk



COPT HEATH
GOLF CLUB

U.S.A U.S.A | Quality Trainee Greenkeepers wanted

Quality Trainee Greenkeepers wanted for management training on the best golf courses in the USA. Must be enthusiastic and motivated and have at least NVQ 2 or one year of full-time turfgrass education.

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Check out this youtube video about the programme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ4vYPZMgjI>

Visit our website: <https://www.osu.edu/>



Deputy Head Greenkeeper Seaford Head Golf Course

Seaford Head Golf Course is looking to recruit a Deputy Head Greenkeeper to join our team, helping ensure the course is presented, maintained and developed to a consistently high level.

If you have 5+ years' greenkeeping experience, are qualified in the safe use and application of pesticides and hold a Level 3 qualification, this could be the role for you.

A full time, permanent role, 37 hours per week Monday to Friday (seasonal adjustments), with occasional weekend rota work. Full uniform and PPE will be

provided. £21-23k per annum plus a wealth of employee benefits and perks.

To apply please visit the Council's website at www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk/vacancies.aspx or send course or job specific questions to the Head Greenkeeper simon.lambert@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Closing date: 22nd October 2018. Interview date: 31st October 2018



Seaford Town Council

Seasonal Greenkeepers Haga Golf Club, Oslo, Norway

Haga Golf Club is a members' owned 27 hole club on the outskirts of Oslo. We are looking for seasonal greenkeepers for season 2019 to help with the day to day maintenance and development of the course.

Candidates should ideally have the following:

- Minimum 2 years' experience working on a golf course
- Ability to work unsupervised and in a team
- Good communication skills
- Be highly motivated

Contracts would be from April to October, with salary of £13-£15 per hour.

Accommodation is available on site.

Apply by e-mailing your CV to:
The Course Manager on gavin@hagagolf.no
Visit our website: www.hagagolf.no



Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club

The Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf clubs in the south of England.

Founded in 1888 it has a rich history and two highly rated courses, both of which are ranked in the county top ten and set in mature heathland in the heart of the Ashdown Forest. The club has a history of hosting prestigious events such as Regional Open Qualifying and the McGregor Trophy.

We are looking to recruit a Course Manager who has the drive and passion to continue the club's journey to excellence in the development, management and presentation of our heathland courses. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a successful track record in both course and people management and will hold relevant greenkeeping and/or agronomy qualifications.

The role offers a competitive salary with onsite family accommodation.

Application Process:

To apply, candidates should send a covering letter highlighting their relevant experience and motivation for the role and an up-to-date CV to: Mr Neil Darnell, General Manager,

The Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club,
Chapel Lane, Forest Row, East Sussex,
RH18 5LR, or email
neildarnell@royalashdown.co.uk

The deadline for applications is:
Wednesday 31st October 2018



Course Manager

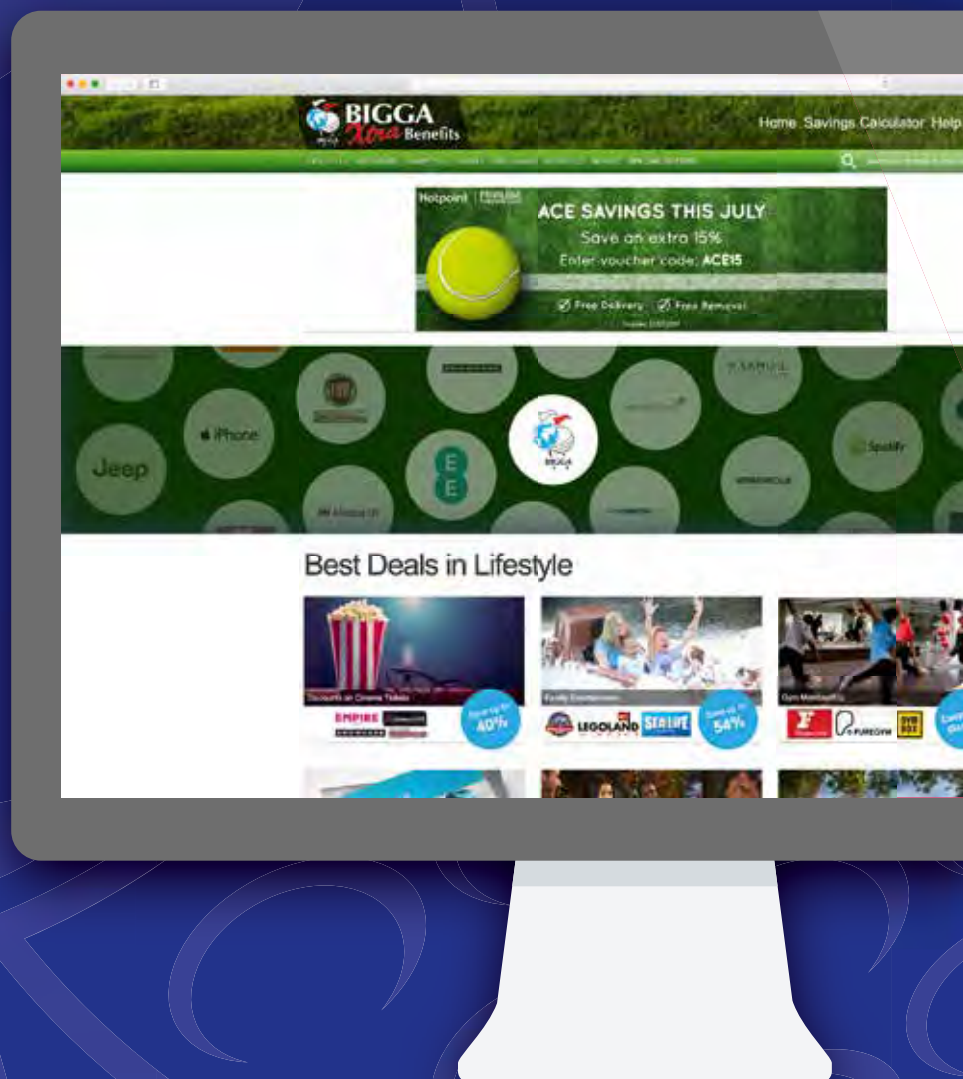
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Around the Globe

Carlota Sanchez | Tecnico Green Section, Real Federacion Espanola de Golf

What is the most unusual thing you would tell other BIGGA members about Spain?

In Spain people think the weather is always dry and warm. But even though it is not a very big country, there are big differences of weather conditions between the south and north of the country and, in some areas, large differences between the seasons.

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

Most of the public golf courses we manage are American design. However, they didn't follow USGA specifications in the construction and we find a lot of problems because of that fact.

How does greenkeeping in Spain vary from the UK?

Irrigation is essential as water quality and water costs are important issues. The greenkeeper will spend most of their time improving the efficiency of the irrigation system.

Pesticide legislation is more restrictive in Spain, so we have less products and more disease pressure to manage.

What is the best part about living in Spain?

In general two things come to mind: weather and lifestyle. These two things you only appreciate when you spend long periods of time abroad.

What is the worst?

We have a small golf market with low budgets, which make it difficult for the greenkeeper to achieve a high level of maintenance. This situation is due to the economic struggles we have had in Spain for the last few years.

How does the weather affect your work?

We have long periods of time without any rainfall. In the summer the high temperatures make it very difficult to maintain the golf course and specifically the greens in good conditions all year round.

The plant is under a lot of stress, which makes it more vulnerable to disease.

The drought is the biggest problem we have in Madrid and even in winter we have to irrigate

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

We have wild pigs in almost all the country. These animals cause lots of damage to our golf courses.

What is your club management structure like?

There is a manager, a professional and a greenkeeper leading the golf course crew. The manager is above the greenkeeper and in most golf courses they have the control of the budget.

What is the public perception of golf in Spain?

It is still associated with high class society and elitist people. But we at the Real Federacion Espanola de Golf (RFEG) are trying to



Images of Centro
Nacional de Golf, Spain

change that perception with lots of promotion, information about the health benefits, golf in schools and short courses to initiate golfers, among other schemes.

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

The annual convention is very interesting. You get a lot of information with the seminars and get to see a lot of new things.

Also, it is very interesting to see the differences between the maintenance in Spain and Britain. In terms of sustainability in golf course management, the United Kingdom and BIGGA members are setting a great example for us to follow.

What is one tip would you give to British greenkeepers that you have learnt in Spain?

Optimum golf course construction is the key to success. Small courses, easy to maintain and enjoyable to play, are the base from which to build great golfers.

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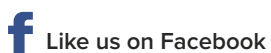


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