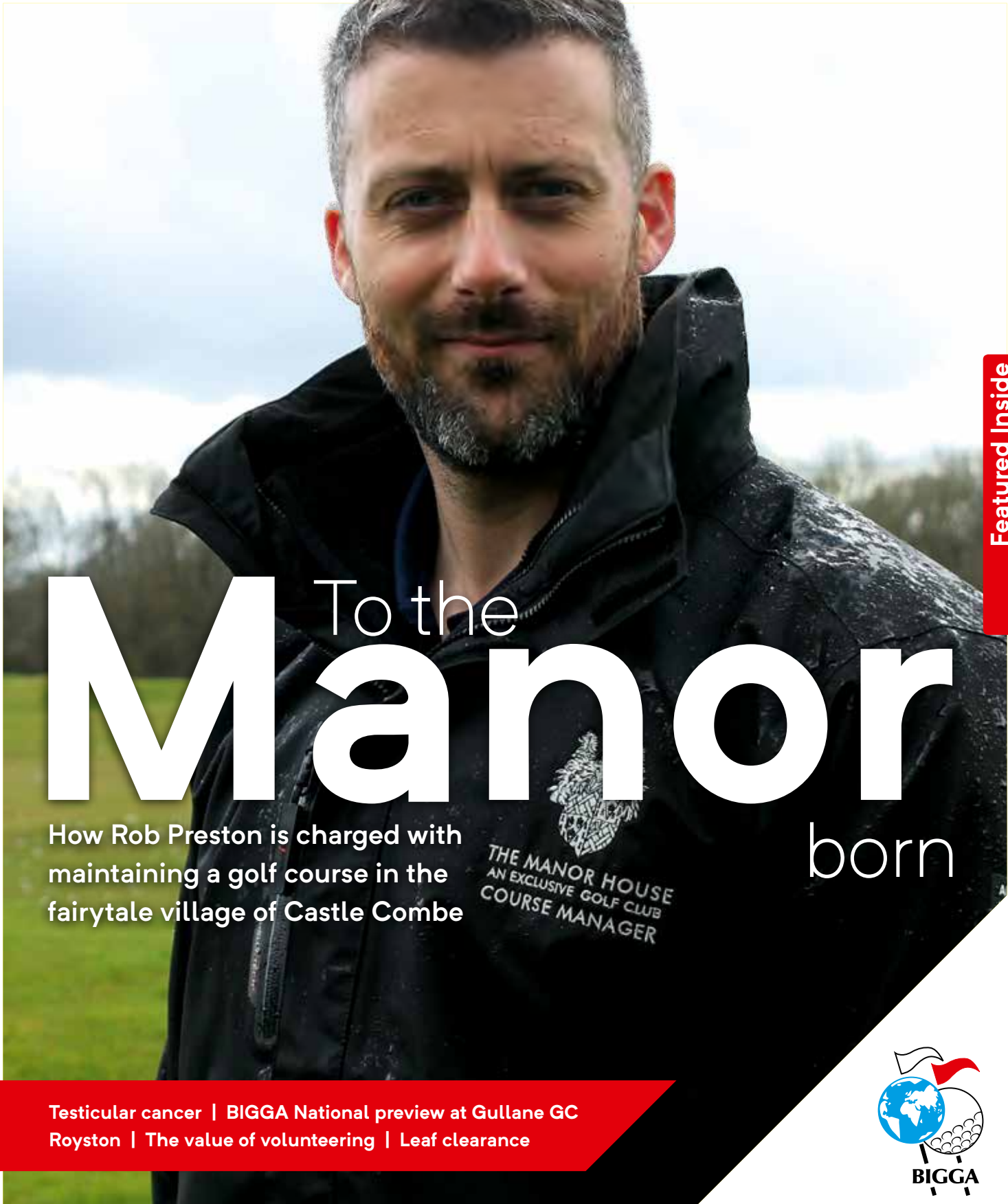




GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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Featured Inside

To the Manor born

How Rob Preston is charged with maintaining a golf course in the fairytale village of Castle Combe

born

Testicular cancer | BIGGA National preview at Gullane GC
Royston | The value of volunteering | Leaf clearance



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Greenkeepers Association Limited

Welcome



Penn Golf Club



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

BIGGA was formed to provide support and help for greenkeepers, but the ability to assist those in financial need is a relatively recent development following the creation of our charity, the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

I remember a terrible case a few years ago when a member of the association died tragically young, leaving behind a family. At the time, there was no mechanism available for the association to formally provide support.

In that case the National Board approved a one-off payment from reserves, but it hastened the process of launching the Benevolent Fund and I'm hugely proud of both the progress that has been made and the difference the fund has made to greenkeepers and their dependants who find themselves in difficulty.

In this magazine you can read about one of the beneficiaries, Shaun Anderson, who was given a 50/50 chance of survival, having

been diagnosed with a particularly virulent strain of cancer that spread throughout his body. His story is chilling and contains a salutary lesson for us all but, thank goodness, has a happy ending.

I'm delighted that the Benevolent Fund was able to assist him and his family at various points along the way as he fought valiantly to make a full recovery.

Shaun was a member of the BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show as recently as 2016. By coincidence that trip was to the beautiful city of San Diego and this month entries close for applications to be part of the next trip to southern California, courtesy of our good friends at Bernhard Company. Don't delay if you're thinking of applying. As Shaun would say, you really don't know what's around the corner.

Later on this month we have a golf day in aid of the Benevolent Fund, being held at Penn Golf Club in the Midlands. As you know, last year Mal Mitchell, course manager at Patshull Park, organised a golf day for the charity, to great effect. Mal did this out of his own desire to support the charity and his colleagues in the industry. It was inspirational to see one of our members put in such effort for others and I'm thrilled that Tim Johnson, the course manager at Penn, has picked up the baton to help us with this year's event.

The plan is for the golf day to move around the country each year and be fronted by one of our members each time. I know plans are well under way for the event at Penn and at the time of writing there are still a couple of team places available if you wish to join in.

Get in touch if you'd like to host an event in support of the charity in the coming years - my hope is that the BIGGA Benevolent Fund Golf Day will become a major annual fixture for the association.

I don't know if we'll be able to match the superb effort last year, which raised £7,000 for the charity, but I know significant sums will be achieved and I'm looking forward to the industry coming together in support of such a good cause.



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From the Editor



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

Looking out for number one

Personal health and safety is something we all must take responsibility for. Whether it's wearing personal protection equipment or undertaking training to allow us to use potentially dangerous machinery, it's all about reducing the risks.

Sometimes though, the worst things sneak up on you and can not be prevented. In this month's Greenkeeper International is one such story, that of Shaun Anderson.

As head greenkeeper at Piperdam near Dundee, Shaun was fit and healthy. A keen runner, he was looking forward to building a life with his young family when he got the news that we all fear - cancer.

His story is one of survival against the odds. At times it's terrifying and although it has little to do with greenkeeping, it's an important story that needs to be told.

Take heed and look after yourself because, as Shaun says, 'cancer doesn't care if you're embarrassed, it will still kill you'.

Elsewhere in the magazine we're previewing this year's BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota. Taking place this year at Gullane Golf Links, those who take part will enjoy a fantastic couple of days' golf at the host of this year's Aberdeen Standard Investments Ladies and Mens Scottish Opens. It's an opportunity you won't want to miss.

Once again the Future Turf Managers Initiative is returning to Jacobsen's Ipswich facility during March 2019 and now's the time to get your application for a place completed. So many FTMI graduates have gone on to fantastic things within the industry, so make sure you don't miss out - you can find details in this magazine's Careers section.

Speaking of FTMI and for the first time, a delegate from each of the last six years' educational events has been invited to join the course preparation team at the Ryder Cup. Talk about the opportunities afforded to BIGGA members - the list is endless!

Best of luck to the BIGGA members who are involved with the hosting of the Ryder Cup. I'm sure it'll be an incredible experience.

For the rest of us left at home in the United Kingdom, attention turns to our preparations for colder weather and our winter maintenance programme. It's also the time when the opportunity arises for personal development and the BIGGA regional conferences aren't to be missed.

You can find the latest details on the membership section of this magazine. If you've never been to a conference before, write the dates in your diary and get yourself along, you won't regret the experience and it could be the first step towards achieving your career ambitions.

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

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As golf and leisure manager at Piperdam Leisure Resort, Shaun has successfully made the transition from a greenkeeping role into a club management position. However, his life took a major turn when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. He told Greenkeeper International his story and offered a stark warning to BIGGA members everywhere.



30 Jon Kiger

Jon is a BIGGA member and director of media and membership at TurfNet, a US-based network of golf course superintendents. A frequent visitor to these shores, he has presented at Continue to Learn and recently visited Stewart Duff at Gullane to discuss the club's hosting this year's BIGGA National Championship.



34 James Hutchinson

An R&A scholar and former Golf Environment Award winner, James is BIGGA's resident ecologist, visiting members and offering advice on how to improve their environmental offering. This month James visited Royston to find out about the wildflowers the team have been working hard to encourage.



38 Rob Preston

Born and raised in Castle Combe, Rob spent his childhood running around the local golf club, being chased by greenkeepers. He's now course manager, responsible for maintaining a course in a village regularly praised as among the most scenic in the UK.



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How wetting agents help recovery after a drought



Burnham blaze

The prolonged dry period throughout the summer increased the risk of fires on golf courses all over the country, with Burnham & Berrow falling victim to a large blaze during August.

With more than 10 consecutive weeks of hot, dry weather, many clubs banned potential fire risks, such as smoking, on their courses. Despite the Burnham & Berrow team taking such measures, a fire on 5 August destroyed a large area of rough at the Somerset links.

Course Manager Richard Whyman was actually at Elland Road about to watch Leeds United take on Stoke City when he got news of the fire.

"I got a phone call about five minutes before kick off saying there was a fire at the club," said Richard. "I actually missed the first goal because I was downstairs trying to find out what was happening!"

Fortunately, course management and irrigation had kept the fairways healthy, restricting the fire to the rough areas. However, a large



The damage at Burnham & Berrow

amount of damage was done to the lining of the club's reservoir, which was unusually low due to the period of drought.

Richard added: "We were fortunate that the course itself was not damaged too much, other than a section of the 11th tee. However, Burnham & Berrow is located on a SSSI and the true ecological

damage will not be known for at least a year, until the fauna begins to regrow."

The fire was believed to have been started by a member of the public lighting a BBQ. Fortunately, no one was injured and the course was able to remain open, hosting a BIGGA section summer outing just a few days later.

Higher Education Scholarship

Dean Reed of Queenwood has become the latest recipient of a Higher Education Scholarship sponsored by Jacobsen.

A graduate of FTMI 2018, Dean has been awarded the grant that will contribute towards his tuition fees for the three-year HNC in Golf Course Management.

Dean said: "The scholarship will be a massive help towards my tuition

fees for the first year and has therefore taken a huge weight off my shoulders.

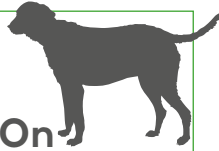
"When I first got into the industry eight years ago I expected it to only be a temporary thing, but my course managers have always pushed me to develop and the incredible support from BIGGA and Jacobsen have shown me what an incredible industry this is."



Dean Reed (centre) was an FTMI delegate in 2018



Dogs On Course



Name: Ralph

Age: 3

Owner: John Scurfield

Course: Morpeth

Breed: Boxer

Favourite spot on the course:

Normally lying down on the one place I ask him not to go, the greens.

Naughtiest moment:

He stole a member's ball during play one evening. His dad smoothed it over with a few Pro V's from the glove box in the pro gator.



My dog is happiest when... He's chasing balls I throw for him around the course during the evening work we do. He's partial to a bit of a pose on the pro gator too.

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

FTMI 2019

Applications have launched for the Future Turf Managers Initiative 2019. Check out the Careers Section on page 68 for all the details



Newsdesk



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Aled Hughes



Aled Hughes

BIGGA was saddened to hear of the passing of Aled Hughes, greenkeeper at Porthmadog, after a short illness.

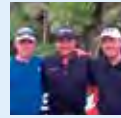
Andy Peel, course manager at Bull Bay, explained how Aled, 48, had a quiet persona and was very much a Morfa Bychen man. He was dedicated to Porthmadog, having worked there since he left school and serving the club for 32 years.

Andy added: "Although very quiet in his work, there was a fire in his belly when it came to playing the game of golf! As low as 1 handicap, he won the club championship on 10 occasions."

Tweet of the month



@BIGGALtd



Chris Brown

@Glen37Chris



Rootzone delivery, don't see this everyday! 5.30pm and have to offload tonight before low tide @BIGGALtd #islandlife #latefinish

Have you nominated someone 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
- Championship Performance of the year
- Greenkeeping Project of the Year

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



BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund Golf Day



Penn Golf Club Course Manager Tim Johnson has spoken about his pride at being asked to host the 2018 BIGGA Golf Day in aid of the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

The event takes place on 26 September in support of BIGGA's charity, which provides support to members and their dependants who are in need of financial and practical aid.

"I think the Benevolent Fund is such an important charity because it has been created to help greenkeepers," said Tim. "It's great that we're fortunate enough to have a charity that's dedicated to helping us and our loved ones in times of need.

"It's important that we all support the charity because it gives people a much needed lifeline when they need it most. This is a very young charity that has already done some great work and it's

exciting to think how much of a difference to people's lives it could make in years to come."

With a shotgun start at 12noon, the golf day costs £160 for a team of four and all proceeds go to the BIGGA Benevolent Fund.

BIGGA is appealing for partners and supporters to help make the event a success, so get in touch if you would like to be involved.

You can download a poster and application form for the BIGGA Benevolent Fund Golf Day from the BIGGA website. For more information contact Rachael Duffy at rachael@bigga.co.uk or call 01347 833800.

Golf Management Trophy



The team from Williamwood was successful as Dunfermline hosted the Scottish Region qualifier for the Golf Management Trophy.

Williamwood, captained by Gerry Bruen, won the qualifier with 84 points, only taking the title by virtue of a better inward half over Eyemouth Golf Club, led by Keith Burgon. Last year's winner, St Michaels, came in third.

The event recorded its first ever hole in one with Campbell Leggatt, greens chairman at Stirling Golf Club, achieving the feat on the tough 173-yard 5th hole using a 5-iron.

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Across the Board

Chris Sealey | Course Manager | Chippenham

This year has been a huge challenge for greenkeepers, with a short spring followed by a red hot summer the likes of which we haven't seen in decades.

Although the heat means you aren't mowing everywhere, it presented us with other challenges at Chippenham. We had two guys out there every day just hand watering greens and tees.

When we have prolonged hot spells, the challenge for me on a clay course is trying to keep it tidy. We get small pockets where the water clings on to the clay and the grass there continues to grow. We end up having to cut, otherwise the course looks very scruffy.

On any point that didn't have irrigation, we lifted the height of cut from four to five millimetres so we weren't stressing the grass by cutting it too short. We used lots of wetting agents and seaweed, which is a stress reliever, just to try and keep the turf healthy.

Every couple of weeks, because we weren't cutting the greens so often, we were rolling more as that causes less stress.

Then, every three to four weeks we were going over the greens with 6mm pencil tines to break up that cap on the surface so any water that we did get on the greens would drop into the rootzone.

The last time we had something like this was 1976. I was only 20 and working at Lansdown, so I was not in charge and I could enjoy it. Back then we were only allowed to water the greens and not tees as there was a ban on.

Luckily this year there's been no restriction on water usage.

This summer was as intense as '76, but it seemed to go on longer. From an industry point of view, there are higher expectations today. My members here are realistic and accept we are on mains water so we'll never have fairway irrigation. It's too expensive and it isn't right to use drinking water on your fairways. But some of the more upmarket clubs, their expectations are that the fairways should still be green, so you sympathise with them.

What was unusual this year was how high the night time temperatures were, so we were still getting evaporation through the night. Then the intense sun was lasting 12 to 14 hours a day and we were wearing shorts and t-shirts at 5am in the morning, which is just unheard of.

From talking to my colleagues, because we've had several wet summers in a row, there's lots of clubs that haven't invested money in their irrigation so this year they have been caught out. Anyone who had any faults was not getting the help they needed.

I made the point to our committee that our irrigation system was installed in the '70s and it was slowly falling apart. I got them to put away a sum of money each year for eight years so eventually we had enough to put a completely new system and control in. But I do feel really sorry for people who have old systems as it's very stressful.

One of the biggest lessons this year is that you need to keep your irrigation system serviced because there's been lots of people trying to patch theirs up to keep it going and that means digging big holes on the course.

As a course manager you need to be looking beyond the day-to-day, making sure all your systems are in place so that when the weather changes, you know you are prepared and there is a plan in place to limit the damage.

I think this summer has also shown one of the strengths of the association. Communication among greenkeepers is important during what is a very stressful situation.

Slowly the course at Chippenham is coming back to life. There are some areas that I'm concerned about and I sincerely hope I haven't got to go down the route of scarifying, spiking and overseeding fairways because that's very labour and cost intensive. Hopefully it's just going to take a little time and it will eventually grow back.



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Ecology Roundup

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James Hutchinson | BIGGA Sustainability Executive

Unusually, I'm going to start this piece with a quick groan, about great-crested newts.

I am unsure as to why great-crested newts have such protection on them.

At a rough guess, 25% of the courses I have been to on BIGGA duty have these newts swimming or walking around them. That means about 50 courses have these slippery amphibians doing their thing and so those courses can not carry out pond maintenance, lake clearance or suchlike in summer.

I have two points to make regarding this. The first is that we must be doing something right for these invertebrates to be living on our courses to start with.

The second is that we should continue doing what we are doing as it is working. Unless you're throwing grass clippings or waste oil into the water, because that's a bad idea and you wouldn't have newts anyway.

On a hugely lighter note, Peter Dawson and the team at South Essex added midwifery and adoption to the long list of skills possessed by greenkeepers. The guys accidentally disturbed a collection of grass snake eggs in the area they were working and gently placed them in a warm tub along with the wood chip they were found in.

To cut a long story short, seven baby snakes hatched and were returned back to the area where they were found! How great is that?

While great-crested newts and snakes are not everyone's cup of tea, they are plentiful on our golf courses, along with bats, owls and tons of other protected species. We are, and have long been, a harbour for almost all our declining and inclining wildlife, which is fantastic and long may it continue.

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



Top to bottom: South Essex's snake incubator; the clutch of eggs; one of the juvenile grass snakes released out on to the course

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YGC

Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Christopher Hale | Deputy Head Greenkeeper | Woodbury Park

I'm fairly new to the YGC, but during my time in the greenkeeping industry I have unfortunately seen greenkeepers not reaching their full potential and I feel it cannot be ignored.

I have worked the majority of my career in the UK, apart from six months each in Holland and New Zealand, and I have become disappointed at the amount of good, passionate greenkeepers that I have worked with or I have met that haven't achieved what I believed they were capable of or have even left the turf management industry altogether.

Are you a greenkeeper that is struggling for motivation at work?

What can you do to motivate yourself and realise you do have a bright future in this industry?

I'm sure course managers and head greenkeepers are using the right methods to motivate their staff, but if you feel this isn't the case then you could approach your manager about further learning.

Education provides an incentive. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things on the golf

course and in the workshop that others might not pick up or realise. Hopefully, the drive of completing a qualification or test can guide you in the right direction and the sense of achievement you get once qualified, with your name on that certificate, will be a proud moment.

Another option to help motivate you that I started doing around three years ago is to volunteer for tournaments. It's great to help out a different greenkeeping team setting up a different golf course for a week or two. It gives you a different perspective on greenkeeping, while also adding valuable experience to your CV and proving that you have a real passion for working in the industry.

From helping setup for smaller tournaments such as Open qualifying, to applying for volunteering at The Open or the John Deere Volunteer Programme at TPC Sawgrass for The Players

Championship, any volunteering experience is seen as a big plus by future employers.

Sometimes it may be necessary to leave a job to move up the ladder. You might feel that you aren't progressing or that you won't get the chance to gain promotion at your current club.

For example, I was an assistant greenkeeper three years ago at the age of 25, with the ambition of eventually becoming a course manager. I felt the need to leave my local club to progress and joined Woodbury Park as a first assistant. Six months later I was promoted to deputy course manager.

So there's hope for any assistant greenkeepers out there who feel they won't get the opportunity to move into management. You might just get a chance soon or get lucky!

Hopefully this has helped any greenkeepers struggling for the same motivation or passion that maybe you once had.

Your greenkeeping career is definitely worth persevering to achieve success.



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TM



9 hole heroes

Celebrating BIGGA's nine-hole greenkeepers

Tom Nicholas | Whitley Golf Club

1. What is your job title?

Course manager

2. How long have you worked in the industry?

Officially 10 years, though the golf club is a family business so I have been mowing since I was 12. I'm now 32 and my brother and I are equal owners of the business.

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

Given it's not just a job but our livelihood too means that the sense of value is greater. Ultimately, the work on the course is a passion for me though and what I put in with the team can be seen in the performance of the course and business.

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

For me, it's balancing the work on the course with the other roles I have in running a business. Often it is a case of having to prioritise tasks and focus on the most

important jobs. With regards the course, I'm sure most greenkeepers feel the same in that our work is never complete. There is always something more to be done.

5. How many staff do you have?

I'm pretty much full time on the course (along with other roles in running a business), then I have two assistants who work flexible hours, which is great for us as a small business. My brother helps out on the course one or two days a week and he then spends time managing the clubhouse and team there. Finally, we have three people who collect range balls twice a week in return for their annual membership.

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

We don't set a budget just on machinery as we generally renew machinery as and when we feel it is necessary (or are forced to). We run a John Deere greens mower, rough mower and tractor and a Jacobsen fairway mower. For the

tractor we have an articulator mower, Weidenmann Terra Spike, Amazone spreader, Hardi sprayer and a woodchipper.

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

I have used Avoncrop Amenity for the 10 years I have been in charge, along with another local firm for a few bits now and again. Neil, who I deal with at Avoncrop, has been really receptive with the organic and sustainable angle I wanted to take, so the current greens programme is pretty lean with a mixture of granular and liquid feeds. In total we spend less than £1,000.

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

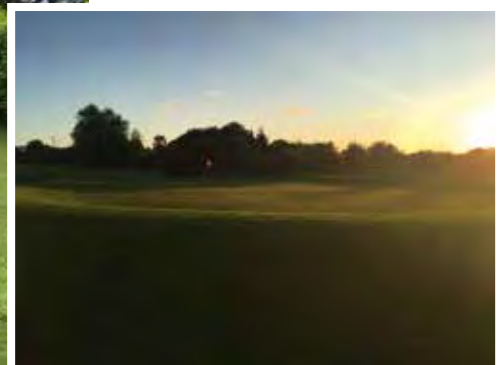
Mid-March this year, after four wet months and two snow storms, a member suggested we should just overseed all our fairways to thicken up the grass coverage. The lack of grass knowledge among golfers makes life tricky!

9. What is the best tip you have received?

Less a tip, but rather a work ethic instilled from my parents at a young age: what you put in, you will get back out.

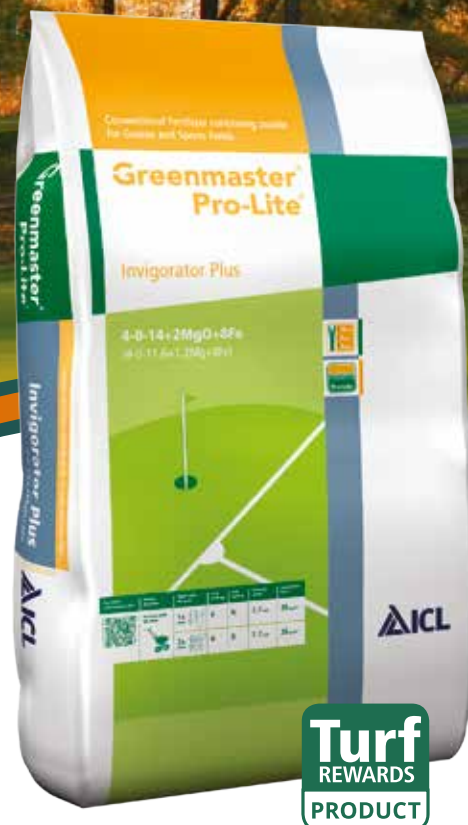
Left: Greenkeepers Sam, Jack, Vic, Tom

Right: 8th green at Whitley Golf Club



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British Sugar TOPSOIL signs up as BIGGA Education Supporter



Andy Spetch of British Sugar TOPSOIL

BIGGA has welcomed British Sugar TOPSOIL as the association's latest Education Supporter.

A division of British Sugar PLC, the company is the UK's largest supplier of topsoil to the landscape and amenity industries. In becoming an Education Supporter, British Sugar TOPSOIL will aid BIGGA as we seek to improve the continuing professional development and educational opportunities available to each of the association's members.

British Sugar TOPSOIL's national manager, Andy Spetch, said: "Over the 20-plus years I've been involved in the topsoil industry I've made a conscious effort to support industry associations and their members. British Sugar TOPSOIL has attended BTME for many years and by becoming an education supporter, we are able to formalise our relationship with BIGGA and provide more learning and development opportunities for all of the association's members."

British Sugar is the most cost efficient producer of sugar in the world. Partnering with 3,500 growers across the United Kingdom, the company produces up to 1.4 million tonnes of sugar from sugar beets each year through its four manufacturing plants in East Anglia and the East Midlands.

British Sugar TOPSOIL's commitment to sustainable production processes and zero waste has resulted in by-products including animal feed, aggregate, renewable energy and around 300,000 tonnes of manufactured topsoil used by the construction, landscape and amenity industries.

BIGGA Business Development Manager Lauren Frazer said: "British Sugar TOPSOIL clearly shares BIGGA's commitment to raising standards and providing educational opportunities across the industry and so we're delighted Andy and his team have come on board as a BIGGA Education Supporter. We look forward to working closely with the team in the future."

Monsanto ruling

In the same week that a merger was ratified between Bayer and Monsanto, the latter was ordered in the USA to pay \$289m to a terminally ill groundsman who used Roundup weedkiller.

Bayer purchased Monsanto in June in a \$66bn deal but the pharmaceutical group's shares dropped sharply following a US verdict linking one of its most popular products to cancer.

Groundsman Dewayne Johnson was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2014 and his lawyers claimed the disease was brought on due to his regularly using a product containing glyphosate while employed at a school district.

Glyphosate is the world's most common weedkiller and Mr Johnson is among more than 5,000 similar plaintiffs across the US.

Monsanto vice president Scott Partridge told the Press Association: "Roundup has been safe for four decades and will continue to be safe. There is no credible scientific evidence that demonstrates otherwise."

Working for a school district in California, Johnson came into contact with hundreds of gallons of Roundup, including during accidents that soaked him from head to toe in the product.

He was diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and in June 2017, after chemotherapy and other treatments, was given just six months to live.

The Amenity Forum, which promotes best practice with regards weed control in the UK, said: "Glyphosate has only recently undergone a thorough review in Europe and been re-approved for use in amenity situations as a safe chemical. This review, conducted by the expert committee of scientists in Europe and approved by vote of member states, took into account some concerns expressed about the active possibly having carcinogenic effects. Based on all the science and evidence available, it was concluded that these were unfounded and it was safe to use."

On 20 August, Bayer was given the go-ahead to begin integrating Monsanto after Bayer sold certain Crop Science businesses in a sale to BASF. Bayer became Monsanto's sole shareholder in June, but the merger couldn't officially take place until the German-based company sold a number of assets.

London to get two new courses



The Dye and Menai-Davis families are working together

A partnership between the Dye family of US golf architects and the Menai-Davis family of course developers will see two 18-hole golf courses built in London.

In Northolt, north-west London, the West London Links will open in the summer of 2020 to offer golfers a modern vision of links golf not far from Wembley Stadium.

Ceri Menai-Davis, director of The Shire London, West London Links,

West London Golf Centre and The Dye London, said: "West London Links is a bold, brave design. We are pushing the boundaries of what is possible as regards sculpting a golfing landscape, with dramatic shaping, which UK golfers have not seen before at an inland links."

The second new course is located near Edgware in north London, where The Dye London is scheduled to open in 2023.

Indigrow



Ian Craig

Indigrow has announced the appointment of Ian Craig as an agronomist, helping the company expand its technical backup to sales operations within the UK, Europe, Middle East and Far East.

Ian has been in the industry for approaching 20 years and previously worked as both a greenkeeper and course manager for a range of golf courses and later as an agronomist for the STRI.

Having worked on every level of sports field, from municipal golf courses and playing fields with local authorities to championship golf courses and top flight pitches, Ian has also worked with governing bodies such as The R&A, FIFA, CAF and UEFA.

A spokesperson for Indigrow said: "Ian will be based in Scotland, but will travel extensively to assist sales teams, particularly in the UK and Scandinavia. His knowledge and expertise are priceless to us."

DLF Seeds

DLF Seeds has announced that it is to purchase PGG Wrightson Seeds.

With DLF recognised as a leading seed player in the Northern hemisphere and PGG occupying a similar position in the south, the combined business is seen as a strategic leap towards a significant global presence.

PGG Wrightson Seeds is an international market leader within forage and turf seeds, responsible for many of Europe's top-rated bent grasses, with activities in New Zealand, Australia, Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil.

DLF Chief Executive Truels Damsgaard said: "The world is changing ever faster with new plant breeding technologies offering quicker and better tailored solutions to diverse amenity conditions."

Portobello

A 130-year-old golf course in Edinburgh is to be reduced to just six holes, with frisbee golf and footgolf being introduced in an attempt to encourage families to use the facility.

Portobello Golf Club was opened in the 1880s and was used by former amateur world champion Ronnie Shade, but members of the Edinburgh Leisure-run club were given just six weeks' notice of the changes.

Portobello's Lyall Scott told the Edinburgh Evening News: "It is very short notice. There are pros and cons to the plans, but we are concerned that there has been no consultation period and there has been no opportunity to feed back."

ISEKI UK & Ireland

ISEKI UK&I has announced that Medland, Sanders & Twose is the latest dealer to switch from a competitive tractor brand and join the ISEKI family.

MST is an established dealer trading through Devon, parts of Cornwall and Somerset with depots in Tiverton, Lee Mill and Yeovil.

ISEKI Managing Director David Withers said: "It is great to have MST on board and we look forward to working with them in the future. Since launching ISEKI UK&I in January this year, it has been very encouraging to see the volume of dealers who would like to represent ISEKI."



New machinery releases

Innovation

Industry Update

RYDER TURF PIGMENT

Ryder turf pigment technology from Syngenta offers the chance to instantly enhance the colour and visual appearance of turf and provide protection from the harmful effects of excessive sunlight.

Helps protect against high light intensities and UV light

Cool season grasses typically reach saturation point at light intensities of just 300 to 500 micromoles. However, on a summer day, sunlight can reach in excess of 2,000 micromoles, bombarding plants with up to four times more light than they can physically use.

Mimics the plant's natural pigment defences but retains green colour

Concentrated 70% pigment that, once dry on the leaf, is not washed off by rain or irrigation and is stable in light



Instant colour can act as a spray pattern indicator

Intensity of colour can be selected through adjustments to application rate, frequency and integrated fertiliser programmes.

FRILFORD HEATH

Frilford Heath's Yellow Course is going from strength to strength in the year since it was opened by European Tour professional Eddie Pepperell.

The par 3 Yellow Course was created using Huxley Golf all-weather surfaces and was designed to cater for all standards of golfers.

Courses Manager Sid Arrowsmith MG said: "When courses were struggling to look their best during the prolonged heatwave, our Yellow Course still looked perfect. With zero irrigation and just a couple of hours a week of maintenance it frees the team to look after the rest of the club's facilities."

RINK DS800

A massive fire in January 2015 saw Suffolk's Thorpeness Golf Club lose all of its equipment, valued at £355,000.

For course manager Ian Willett, the replacement of the fleet has been gradual, with a topdresser and Rink DS800 from Charterhouse Turf Machinery among the recent acquisitions.

The Rink DS800 Topdresser can be trailed behind a 30hp

compact tractor with the benefits of four wheels on an articulating axle or fitted to a John Deere ProGator or Toro Workman truck for a lighter footprint.

The topdresser has a variable spread pattern up to 12m with its accuracy aided by dual spinners, which can be used even if the material is wet. Ian said all 18 holes can be topdressed in just four hours using the machine.

BASIS celebrates 40 years

BASIS registration is celebrating its 40th year of service to agricultural and related industries throughout 2018.

Stephen Jacob, BASIS chief executive, said the milestone is a testament to the developing industry, proving that training and continued development is not only essential, but it's here to stay.

Stephen said: "One key player in the organisation's development was former chief executive Barrie Orme, who instigated the examination and training side, for which it is now so well known.

"Once this was well established, Barrie saw the further need for ongoing professional development for agronomists to keep abreast of developments in crop protection, so set about launching the highly-regarded BASIS Professional Register to meet this need in the early 1990s."



Stephen explained how the role of an advisor has changed over time, so BASIS continually updates its courses and syllabuses to ensure CPD points can be obtained on an array of topic areas.

Hazel Doonan, AIC sector head of crop protection said: "Going forward, training and CPD will continue to be a high priority to help agronomists stay up-to-date with new developments in all aspects of their work. So it's important that course content and delivery is regularly reviewed."

Rowan Rumball



STRI Group has strengthened its ecology services by appointing a consultant to join the UK team.

Rowan Rumball joins STRI as ecological consultant with six years' commercial experience within the industry. Rowan has a Masters degree in conservation from the University of Lancaster and worked at AECOM as a bat and great crested newt specialist.

Bob Taylor, head of ecology and environment at the STRI, said: "We are delighted to welcome Rowan to our team of chartered ecologists, where his specialist knowledge and extensive project experience will be of major benefit to our diverse client group in the sports industry."

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Greenkeepers
Legal Assistance
0808 181 9194

Lifestyle Counselling
Helpline
0333 000 2082

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If you've not opted in already email
elaine@bigga.co.uk

Membership

Dates for your diary

Each year BIGGA's regional conferences bring leading speakers and some of the top names in the turf management industry to your doorstep.

Things are no different this time around and the Membership Services Manager in your region has been working hard to put together a fantastic programme of education.

For more information contact your local Membership Services Manager, formerly your Regional Administrator. You can find contact details in the Around the Green pages.

Why attend a regional conference?

Gordon McKie, course manager of The Old Course at St Andrews Golf Links, will be speaking at the Central England conference on 7 November.

Throughout your career, what has been the value of attending regional conferences?

Attending regional conferences gives you the opportunity to network with colleagues that you may not otherwise come into contact with on a regular basis. They also provide the opportunity to gain some quality education closer to home. It means younger members or those who perhaps haven't engaged with BIGGA before can get a taste of what it's all about.

If you're attending a conference for the first time, how do you maximise the experience?

Take as much as you can from each speaker and network and make contact with people that you may not have come into contact with before.

Why is it important for conferences to get speakers from outside of their region involved?

I believe it's important to hear the different stories from different parts of the country to broaden your knowledge from those areas. It allows you to learn about other ways of doing things that you may not have come across before.





Find your local conference

South East

Gerrards Cross Golf Club
8 November 2018
 Daniel Lightfoot MG, Syngenta
 Michael Mann, course manager, Walton Heath Golf Club
 Richard Elwell, Ethical Influence
 Perennial
 Stella Rixon, STRI
 Panel of greenkeepers and specialists for a Q&A session

Northern

Middlesbrough (Brass Castle) Golf Club
Wednesday 14 November
 Adam Newton, STRI
 Ian Pemberton, Cleveland Golf Club
 Dave Edmondson, The Island Golf Club
 Helen Waddington, Perennial
 James Hutchinson, BIGGA

North West
 Details coming soon

North Wales
 Details coming soon

Central England

Kings Norton Golf Club
7 November 2018
 Martin Ebert, Mackenzie and Ebert Golf Course Architects
 Philip Russell, assistant director of sustainability, The R&A
 Gordon McKie, The Old Course, St Andrews Links Trust
 James Bledge, Royal Cinque Ports

South West & South Wales

Somerset County Cricket Ground
Wednesday 14 November
 Jon Wood, Castle Course, St Andrews Links Trust
 Bjarni Thor Hannesson, Keilir GC, Iceland
 Craig Cameron, Golf Club St Leon-Rot, Germany
 James Edwards, EDI Golf and Jason Brooks, Torquay Golf Club

Scotland

Perth Concert Hall
Tuesday 5 March 2019
 Look out for details in coming months

Welcome new members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Darren McLoughlin, DHGK, Erskine; **John Anderson**, GK, Prestwick; **Matej Sipek**, GK, Gleneagles; **Fraser Mitchell**, GK, Thornhill; **Pablo Lizano Miguel-sin**, Itl, Carnoustie; **Arran Williamson**, AGK, Kings Links; **Bruce Spence**, AGK, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Northern

Josh Longbottom, App, Otley; **Thomas Turner**, App, Otley; **Joseph Shires**, App, Renishaw Park; **Paul Anderson**, FA, Pontefract & District; **Kieran Heard**, GK, Wath; **Jordan Lee**, GK, Wath; **John Codd**, AGK, Elsham; **Jordan Winstanley**, AGK, Grand National; **Graham Fairbank**, AGK, Elsham; **Kevin Keenan**, AGK, Filey; **Dan Dooley**, AGK, Mount Murray; **Joshua Roberts**, AGK, Pontefract & District; **Coner Grigg**, AGK, Pontefract & District.

Central England

Paul Durant, App, Cherwell Edge; **Matthew Emmerson**, App, Manor (Kingstone); **Cavan Mallon**, App, Windlesham; **Shane Bagwell**, AGK, Woburn; **Stuart Marshall**, AGK, Woburn; **Matthew Oliver**, AGK, Badgemore; **Christopher Poole**, AGK, Forest Hill; **David Baker**, AGK, Stoneleigh.

South West & South Wales

Kristian Summerfield, ED, Symbio; **David Sleat**, AGK, St Mellion.

South East

Cameron Rodgers, App, Chalgrave Manor; **Ross Vincent**, App, Royal Automobile Club; **Connor Dighton**, App, Sittingbourne & Milton Regis; **Louis Govier**, App, Studley Wood; **Jake Doherty**, App, Thorney Park; **Martin Trower**, CM, Burnham-on-Crouch; **Craig Gibson**, CM, Essendon; **Mark Phipps-Jones**, DHGK, Playgolf Colchester; **Finbarr Madden**, ES, Symbio; **Joe Clarke**, FA, Epsom; **Carl Cordwell**, GK, Little Hay; **Aaron Peacock**, GK, Rusper; **Christopher Ives-Keeler**, GK, The Wentworth Club; **Peter Craig**, Head Groundsman, The Lensbury Club; **Simon Bartlett**, Mechanic, North Foreland; **Charlie Sorrell**, AGK, Seaford; **Stuart Fry**, AGK, Old Thorns; **Adam Murphy**, AGK, Royston.

International

Erik Standish, Bullis School.

Membership

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



Shaun's story

A greenkeeper's battle against testicular cancer

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

A warning: this will make for uncomfortable reading. This is a scary story, but thankfully one with a happy ending.

It's the tale of Shaun Anderson, a BIGGA member at Piperdam near Dundee, who never imagined that as a fit and healthy 35-year-old, he would soon be told that he had just a 50% chance of being alive to see his son start school in just a few months.

Testicular cancer is real and it can strike any man. Heed Shaun's warning and make sure you check yourself regularly.

This is Shaun's story...



Last spring I was quite fit and healthy. I was doing a lot of running and was as fit as I had been in a long time. I noticed that my testicle had got quite hard, heavy and swollen. It wasn't the pea-sized lump they always talk about, which I think sometimes is a misconception. Mine was a swollen testicle, and I also noticed I had a lump above my left nipple, which wasn't painful.

My wife, Heather, said go to the doctors to see about it. He looked at my breast lump and said he would refer me to the breast clinic to have it looked at. That's quite embarrassing, but actually men can get breast cancer.

The doctor said he wasn't sure what the testicle problem was, but it could be an infection. He gave me some antibiotics and took some blood samples.

I remember I was at a BIGGA Scotland board meeting at Auchterarder about four days

later and my phone rang. It was the doctor on the phone and he said my bloods hadn't come back normal. He didn't use the word 'tumour', but he said my tumour markers should be between zero and five. At that point mine were over 12,000.

I went along to the breast clinic the day after and got an ultrasound. She said it wasn't cancer, but it was gynecomastia, which is caused by a hormone imbalance. She told me: "You've not got breast cancer, but don't be surprised if, when you go to urology, if they tell you something's wrong with your testicles."

At that point I was bracing myself for bad news, and the next day I went to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, where the doctor said 'we have to take your testicle out'. I was like OK, does that mean I have testicular cancer? And he said: "Yes, you have testicular cancer." It was as blunt as that.

Continued over



Shaun and his son
Conner

The first thing I thought was will I see my son grow up? Conner was four and I wondered whether I would live to see him start school that August.

I was petrified. You go from life being normal, to all of a sudden you have got cancer.

The cure rates are good and generally they're about 95 per cent. Unfortunately, I didn't have those chances, I was 50/50. The consultants said if I hadn't had chemotherapy within two weeks, I would be dead.

I had an orchiectomy to remove my left testicle, but then I started getting pains in my back and it turned out that the cancer had spread to my stomach. I had a 16.5cm tumour in my abdomen. I had the most aggressive form of testicular cancer, called non-seminoma. I was stage 3C, which is the highest stage for testicular cancer, there's no stage 4.

After the surgery, I had only taken a week off work because I was expecting to be back that quickly. Then I started getting a really sore back. I put that down to stress and not sleeping. I got taken to hospital the next day and they found the tumour in my stomach. The oncologist said my strain was very aggressive and the tumour

was doubling in size week by week. Normally they would take a year or six months to double in size, mine was doubling every week. It was hammering me.

I went from being completely fit and healthy to not being able to walk, with a tumour in my stomach, within three weeks.

Your life gets turned upside down. I will never forget it; the oncologist took us to a side room, she was about the same age as me, and she said, "The strain you've got is non-seminoma, you are very ill. You have got a 50% chance".

It was basically the flip of a coin at that point, which was scary. Every emotion runs through your head. I don't think I've ever cried so much.

I was worried about my wife, thinking what's she going to do without me? I remember thinking she needs to move on with her life if I die.

And my son, Conner, how will he get on without his dad? I was thinking about other people who lost their dad when they were young and whether that affected them as they grew up.

I even thought about the golf course, is it OK? I'm so invested in Piperdam as I've been here for 11 years and I really care about the place. We'd just been bought over by new owners, so what were they thinking?

Everything just runs through your head, the most illogical and logical things, because your mind is just running at 100mph.

They would normally give three cycles of BEP (Bleomycin, Etoposide & Cisplatin) over nine weeks to treat the cancer, but because mine was so aggressive they had to hit me with five cycles of trial chemotherapy CBOP/ BEP (Carboplatin, Vincristine, Bleomycin, Etoposide and Cisplatin) over 15 weeks. There was a lot of platinum-based chemotherapy to stop the growth and shrink the tumour.

I was neutropenic, meaning I had no immune system. I was in hospital for two months. I was put in isolation and my platelet count dropped, which put me at risk

'Don't be embarrassed about it because cancer doesn't care if you are embarrassed, it will still kill you.'

Cancer Research UK guidelines

Finding it early

- Cancers are easiest to treat when they are found early
- It's a good idea to look at and feel your testicles every now and then
- A good time to look and feel is after a warm bath or shower, when the scrotal skin is relaxed
- Check your testicles for the size and weight and any lumps or swellings

You should see your doctor if you have:

- An unusual lump or swelling in part of one testicle
- A sharp pain in the testicle or scrotum
- A heavy scrotum
- An increase in the firmness or feel
- An unusual difference between one testicle and the other

Your symptoms are unlikely to be cancer, but it's important to get them checked out by a doctor.

of spontaneous bleeds. I had 17 blood transfusions and two platelet transfusions.

In those 15 weeks there was very little that I could do. I rewatched Game of Thrones, and actually enjoyed it more the second time! That kept me going.

You also strike up a camaraderie with other people who are going through the same thing, as everyone has their war story to tell.

You almost feel relieved when you are in chemotherapy because you feel like you're finally fighting back. You think 'this is me now, I can do it, we're fighting this'.

Then when I became ill in the middle of the treatment it was the scariest, loneliest thing. I was put in isolation because I had no immune system and couldn't be around anybody. Every day the oncologist would say 'your blood count isn't up' and they started having a sweepstake among the staff about what my blood count would be. The staff were amazing, they were so nice.

I was so ill that they had to start my chemotherapy on the Wednesday and do it over the weekend, meaning they put me in the general cancer ward, and that's a scary place. There's a lot of people who aren't alive now that I was in hospital with. There's one guy, Sam Bennett, who also used to work at Piperdam. He died two months after I finished chemotherapy.



The staff were so good, they were so engaging, so warming, they would come and speak to you and take your mind off things. You're laid there for two months doing very little, and actually you become institutionalised. That's scary, actually, because you've had this structure in the hospital and you come out and you're left to get on with it.

It's a bit surreal to be told you can go home. My tumour markers returned to normal, they gave me a CT scan and all of a sudden, my tumour was from 16cm in size down to 3.8cm. They couldn't leave it there, so they took me through to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow and I had surgery (RPLND) in October to remove it.

I came back to work six weeks after that on a part time basis.

I have peripheral neuropathy, meaning my legs and feet are completely numb because the platinum they use in the chemotherapy strips your nervous system. My hands are numb so I struggle to write, I can't do buttons and I've just learnt to tie my laces again. It feels like I'm wearing tight gloves all the time.

They will hopefully recover, but that may take years.

My employer has been amazing, I couldn't thank them enough. They've supported me all the way through it. Because I can't work out on the golf course, they reorganised the structure of the club and I was lucky enough that they see potential in me and made me golf and leisure manager. I'm not out cutting grass any more, but I still do all the budgeting and planning. I've got my course supervisor, Steve, and I have a leisure team as well.

Physically it's going to take time to recover. Mentally the enormity of it has hit me recently. As life settles back down to normal, that's when the enormity of what you've been through hits. But I'm part of a group called Check'Em Lads, which is a testicular cancer support group charity. I was supported by Perennial throughout and I was

also lucky enough that BIGGA awarded me a grant through the benevolent fund. I can't stress how lucky I am to be a member of BIGGA and the support from both the staff and members of BIGGA was tremendous.

I want to spend time with my wife and son and go do things I couldn't do last year because I was stuck in a hospital all spring and summer.

I really want to start running again, getting fit and getting out and getting back some form of normality.

The last run I went on before I got ill wasn't a big one, but I ran to meet my wife at the hospital. I stopped at the door for Ward 32, the cancer ward, as it was exactly eight miles from my front door. Two weeks later I was sitting inside that ward, attached to a drip.

Don't be naïve and think it won't happen to you, because I used to think it wouldn't happen to me. Regularly check yourself and if you have any issues, go to the doctors. Don't be embarrassed about it because cancer doesn't care if you're embarrassed, it will still kill you.

Going through something like this puts life into perspective. You prioritise things differently. Things that mattered before, you wonder why you got upset in the past. You try not to because everyone has got their battles, but you realise there are worse things in life.

It's certainly easier dealing with golfers now. Being a greenkeeper, you take criticism to heart, but you learn and realise that golfers are so reactive you can cut through the nonsense.

Shaun during his treatment



Useful Contacts

Orchid Male Cancer:
0808 802 0010

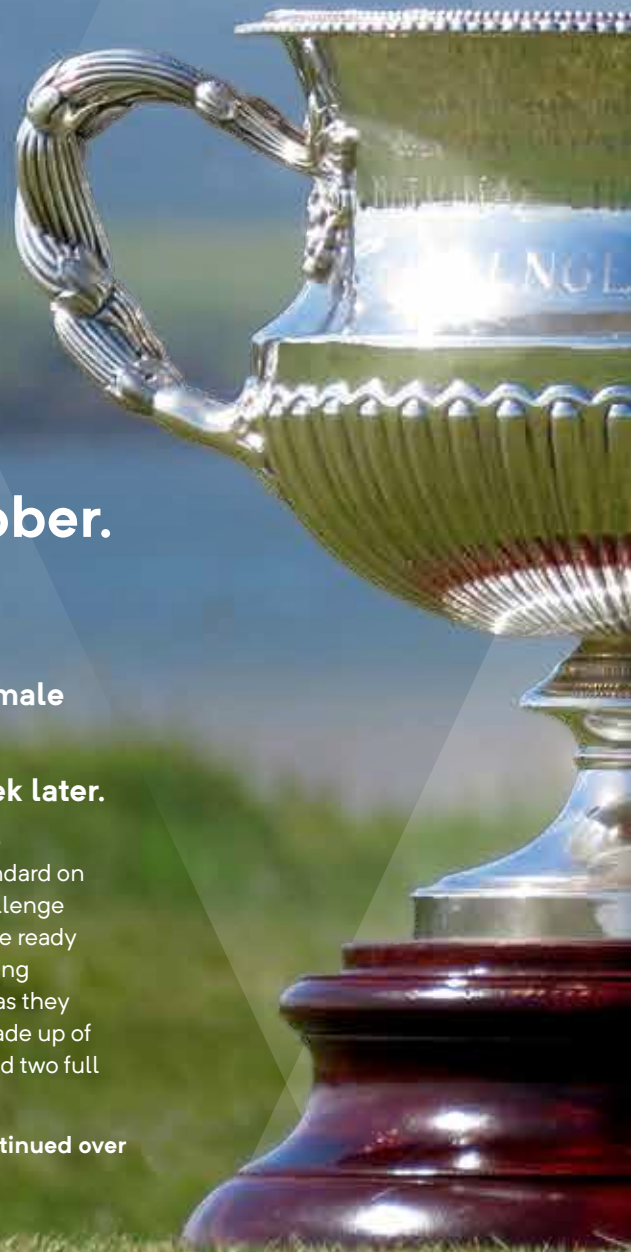
MacMillan Cancer Support:
0808 800 0000

Check'em lads:
www.facebook.com/testicularcancer/

Gullane

BIGGA National 2018

After hosting both men's and women's professional events this summer, Gullane's Stewart Duff is ready to host the BIGGA National Championship in October.



Jon Kiger, TurfNet

It's a tall order to prepare a course when the world's best male golfers arrive for a week's competition, but it's even more daunting when their female counterparts arrive just a week later.

That's exactly the scenario that faced Gullane Golf Club Course Manager Stewart Duff as he hosted both the Men's and Women's Aberdeen Standard Investments Scottish Opens in July.

Stewart, who relied on his combined staff of 25 and a small group of nine weekly volunteers for the two events, will host the BIGGA National Championship over the club's Number 2 course in East Lothian, Scotland on 8-9 October.

All three of Gullane's courses are managed to a championship standard on a daily basis. This means the challenge wasn't so much getting the course ready for the professionals, but perfecting communication among the staff as they navigated a composite course made up of holes primarily from Gullane 1 and two full holes from Gullane 2.

Continued over

e awaits



“I’m looking forward to the BIGGA National. It’s good for me to meet and socialise with all the other members and it’s good for the team to meet with other greenkeepers, hear their feedback about the course and play some golf. These events are absolutely fantastic for networking and making new relationships.”

Stewart Duff, Gullane course manager



"We had to be careful when on the radio to designate 'Composite 6' or whatever the hole was where assistance was needed," said Stewart. "This procedure was implemented early in the three-week stretch so the staff adapted quickly to the tournament routing. In a way this was easier on the volunteers as the composite course routing was the only course they knew during their week here."

Stewart explained that steps were taken as early as January to dial in conditions on the three greens from Gullane 2 (7, 8 and 18, which served as the practice putting green) and the single green (18, which served as the chipping green) from Gullane 3. These greens were maintained to a similar standard as those on Gullane 1.

The Scottish Open composite course wasn't the only composite course at Gullane once the infrastructure started arriving. With over 1,100 members there was still high demand for play leading up to the events, so 16 holes from Gullane 3 and two holes from Gullane 2 gave the members a composite 18 to play. This members' composite course was out of the way in the run up to the tournaments. Play on the members' course continued until Sunday 1 July and the members composite course stayed open right until the Tuesday of the tournament week. Gullane Golf Club also provided most of the daytime volunteers for both weeks, though several other clubs in the area also provided assistance.

Some mowing procedures were undertaken early on with an eye toward nature and the environment.

'You can't be everywhere all the time... learning to delegate and listening to people is key.'



Gullane Golf Course

Mowing of the spectator tracks to three inches started in January to discourage birds from nesting in what would normally be the taller rough. Had the mowing started in March, April or May, some nesting birds would have likely been displaced during that process. By keeping the spectator paths mowed short from an early date, any potential nesting birds were not disturbed or displaced.

Opposite page:
Heading out for
the morning mow



You may wonder how a course manager keeps everyone motivated when his course is hosting two professional tournaments over a span of three weeks. Stewart explained that the key is to recognise that such a stretch can bring on stress for the staff.

He said: "The key thing for me is to know that we're all human. We all get tired and it's just being sympathetic to folk. If somebody needs an odd couple hours off for something, it's not the end of the world and the work will still get done."



Stewart Duff

Stewart also mentioned the importance of everyone keeping



things in the proper perspective and even acknowledged that humour can play a role in motivating the staff.

“Just be patient with people,” he added. “Try to not to be snappy or put anybody down. It’s just all about keeping the morale on a nice level keel, and if you can have a laugh doing stuff, that’s what you want. I think the guys have a good mix. If they can have a good bit of banter with each other, and wind each other up, I’m up for that. As long as they’re working away hard and playing hard, it’s great.”

A strong support team is also one key to regularly managing the three courses and preparing for tournaments. Paul Hay has two titles, since he serves as Stewart’s deputy and is also the head man on Gullane 1. Ian Watson is the head man on Gullane 2 and Steven Mullen is the head greenkeeper on Gullane 3. Stewart described this support — especially at tournament time — as “fantastic”, adding: “They all represent many

more pairs of eyes going about the site. They can spot things and they all have deputies to spot things as well. The guys and myself pick up on things and the more people who are looking, there’s less chance of something getting missed or mistakes happening. We’ve got plenty of eyes.”

The tournaments couldn’t function without outside support from industry partners. The European Tour covered housing and meals for the outside volunteers — approximately nine per tournament week. Reesink Turfcare provided support mowers and an assistant mechanic to help head mechanic Allan White and his team. They also supplied the maintenance team clothing for both tournaments.

Bernhard provided grinding support in advance of each tournament week and John Deere brought in an additional fairway mower. These are just a few of the industry partners who assisted with the two tournaments.

Continued over



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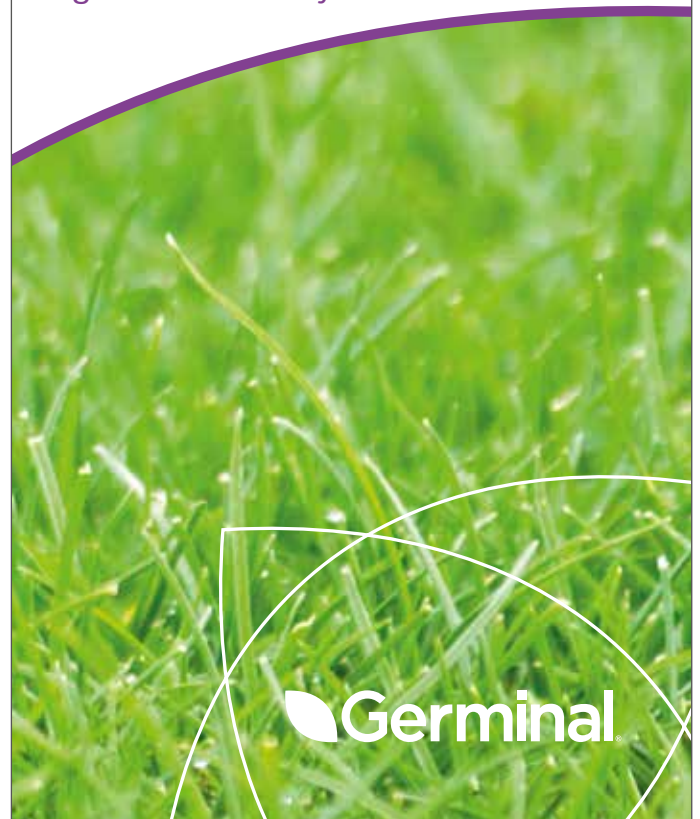
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Allan explained that all the mowers were ground and adjusted at the beginning of each week and having such an experienced combined staff meant few nicks on reels and bedknives from the odd bits and bobs on the course.

Tournament week was spent primarily double-checking fluid levels and settings. The mowers were ground again in the week between the men's and women's events. Repairing the occasional puncture was also part of the routine in the workshop as mowers and vehicles picked up odd bits of infrastructure, such as screws or nails, around the complex.

Stewart explained that there were two primary challenges to staging these events. First and most obvious was Scotland's extended warm and dry weather in the run up to the events. Trying to drought areas just enough to create the desired playing conditions without any grass cover loss on the championship course.

The second challenge was working around the installation of the infrastructure when Stewart and his team wanted to focus primarily on the golf course. Installation started about eight weeks before the men's tournament.



Stewart with Eddie Adams the European Tour's agronomist assigned to the Scottish Open

Stewart said: "When the European Tour come onboard it's amazing. You're getting pulled left, right and centre, especially early on. These things are pulling you away from the golf course constantly, and that's the hardest thing to adjust to."

When explaining the distractions of infrastructure installation Stewart emphasised again that delegation to his team is one key to their success at Gullane. He explained: "I think you need to delegate a lot. You can't be everywhere all the time and you've got to rely on other people helping you. The whole team are all very well qualified, and they can all step up and do bits and bobs. Learning to delegate and listening to people is key."

One distinction from 2015 (when Gullane last hosted a single European Tour event) is that this year they were responsible for two tournaments with just a week in between. There was no let up in the preparations or delivery of the course for the second tournament.

"We treated the ladies' competition exactly the same," said Stewart. "It was our reputation and the club's reputation at stake. We wanted them to be happy when they arrived and they left happy after the event."

Stewart has had two stints at Gullane, the first from 1985-2002 and the second for the past 12 years. That means the club's reputation is very much the same as his team's reputation.

As for hosting the BIGGA National Championship, Stewart and his team are looking forward to providing tournament conditions as close as they can get it.

He said: "Everything will be cut on the day both days of the competition. From tees, fairways, and whatever it takes to cut the greens to get them up to about the ten-foot mark. The final mark depends on the anticipated wind. Make no mistake, we're aiming for tournament conditions for the two-day competition. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Gullane and East Lothian."



Volunteers double check fluid levels prior to heading out for each mowing session

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Thyme to tumulus, a wildflower story

Thyme to Tumulus, a wildflower story

James Hutchinson, BIGGA

James Hutchinson heads to Hertfordshire to learn about Royston Golf Club's ecological and archaeological efforts.

Has anyone ever mentioned to you that some of the UK's rarest plants and historical interests can be found on our golf courses?

Probably not, as many laymen and professional botanical groups still see us as 'a good walk spoiled', a waste of land and all that kind of nonsense.

Well, I can categorically say that, without golf courses, many beautiful and scarce wildflowers would not be growing contently where they have been for centuries, nor would the history be conserved... and here's why.

The following feature highlights the super work a picturesque golf course in Hertfordshire is undertaking and how the challenges they face affect the playing surfaces. We'll learn about tumuli too — I bet you don't know what they are.

Firstly, we need to know a little about the laws relating to these wild-growing colourful corks. Don't dig them up! The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 says you can't, so don't do it. You can, actually, take a few flowers from the more common species, but if you do stumble upon a lady's slipper orchid or a pasqueflower (highly unlikely) then please just look admirably at them and maybe take a few snaps. But don't do anything else otherwise the consequences can include a custodial sentence. Speaking of lady's slippers and pasqueflowers, wait until you get a load of what's on offer a little later in this feature... I can't wait and I'm the one writing it!

OK, I'll be honest and say that greenkeepers in the past have been guilty of a few misdemeanours where wildflowers and herbicide is concerned. This is largely down to unrealistically high expectations, especially when one of the 'major' American golf courses was shown on the

television. These high expectations are still among us and every single greenkeeper I know is up and ready to meet them, but these days without the use of many chemistries.

Recently, the greenkeeping industry lost almost all of its main armouries in the constant fight against grass and wildflower-eating pests. But do you know what? You can still use them in your garden and the farming industry still has them in abundance, just not us. I won't dwell on that one but the point is that wildflowers can only benefit from the loss. Thankfully for greenkeepers, Acelepryn has been approved for the control of chafer grubs and leatherjackets here in the UK on a temporary basis.

Did you know the UK's rarest wildflower, the lady's slipper orchid, was once down to one single plant? And do you know where it was growing? Yes, that's right, on a golf course. The orchid was so rare that people camped out close by to protect the plant. After a few cuttings were taken, and many attempted digging-ups were foiled (although I understand

it was actually dug up at one point but the police managed to apprehend the robber), the plant remained intact and growing peacefully on a golf course in the North of England for a long time thereafter. Hooray for the golf course, I say!

If you can find candytuft, clustered bellflower, yellow field fleawort, purple milk-vetch and white helleborine on your golf course then you know you are doing something right. A number of these plants are classified as 'endangered' and are included as a "species of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" under Section 41 (England) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Royston Golf Club has them in their thousands and would they

Adam Murphy, Jonjo Pitts, Ian Coote and Mark Moule




Continued over

'...without golf courses, many beautiful and scarce wildflowers would not be growing contently where they have been for centuries...'



Thyme to Tumulus, a wildflower story


 Pasqueflower

green grasses. The well-treasured English poet and naturalist, Geoffrey Grigson, said the pasqueflower had "a fair claim to being the most dramatically and exotically beautiful of all English plants", so who could argue with that?

I fired a few questions at Royston's head greenkeeper, Ian Coote, about the work they've put in to encourage such fantastic wildflowers on the course.

Ian began greenkeeping in 1998, maintaining the golf course on a military establishment. He moved to Royston in 2007, being appointed course manager in 2013.

Why does Royston have such rare wild flowers on site?

The golf course forms part of the Therfield Heath SSSI. The site contains some of the richest chalk grassland in England, the majority of which has been maintained by sheep grazing, along with the golf course management plan. The golf course is as important as the wider SSSI in maintaining the chalk grassland plant and animal communities.

How are the wildflowers managed, given they are growing on a golf course?

The main bulk of the wildflowers grow in the rough, although there are some encroaching onto the main part of the golf course. Wild thyme grows on fairways and in bunker faces, so a cutting regime has been adapted to allow for these plants to grow. Leaving bunker faces natural, without cutting,


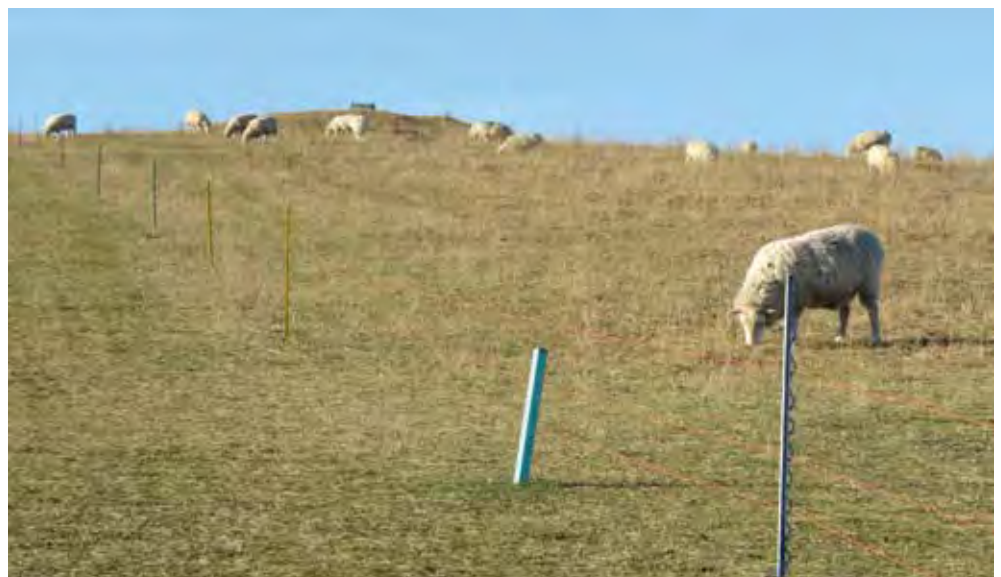
be there if the area was simple common land? Very unlikely as rank grasses, trees and the like would soon take over.

At Royston, the majority of the roughs are kept in check by the local farmer's grazing sheep. The farmer works closely with the voluntary warden, Vincent Thompson, who knows more about wildflowers than anyone I've ever met. The Dorset Finns are allowed to graze in areas where either the more important plants have completed their flowering cycle, and as such will return the following year, or are led to sections of the course where rank grasses are growing.

It has long been known that grazing sheep will keep rank grasses at bay by taking away any arisings they chomp on and returning them back to the land as natural fertiliser. After a number of years, the fatter grasses no longer grow as they do not have the nutrients to sustain their gluttonous lifestyles. As a consequence of this, the finer,

more desirable golfing grasses replace them and provide the ideal habitat for wildflowers.

So, onto the pasqueflower, or should I say pasqueflowers, as Royston has hundreds of them growing on a south-facing slope to the far end of the course. This hairy perennial is as attractive a UK plant as you are likely to find. With its drooping violet sepals and vibrant golden stamens you're unlikely to miss it among

 Sheep at Royston Golf Club




not just on the golf course but over the whole SSSI.

Can you tell me about the tumuli that are on the site?

A tumulus is a mound of earth and stones over a grave or graves and can also be known as barrows. The largest mound on the golf course is known as Long Barrow and there are several smaller tumuli over the course.

They date from the Neolithic and Bronze Age and it appears that the area the golf course sits on was re-used as a cemetery during the Saxon period. The land supporting the golf club has multi-period finds, indicating the land has been virtually under continuous use since Prehistoric times.

has helped the fauna spread and fairways are cut at a specific height so as not to cut the plants.

We are not allowed to cut any rough from 1 March through until 1 September, which helps the plants to develop and seed. This also allows the skylarks that nest in the grass to move on. The grass is then

cut and taken off site through the winter. When new flowers appear on the managed areas of the course, these areas are marked off and not cut and become GUR.

We work very closely with Natural England to plan scrub management works during the winter to help maintain the area



Ian Coote and Vincent Thompson

So, you can deduce from the aforementioned words, golf courses can be havens for wildflowers and historical preservations. But we greenkeepers knew that anyway didn't we?



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Maintaining a golf course in the 'prettiest village in England'

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Rob Preston - Castle Combe

When your golf club is situated in a fairy-tale village, where Hollywood occasionally stops by to film a blockbuster movie, there's a bit of pressure to get the course looking in top condition.

Responsibility for maintaining The Manor House at Castle Combe's golf course falls to Rob Preston, himself a native of the village where movies such as War Horse, Stardust and many others have been filmed.

What is it that makes the village in north east Wiltshire so admired? It's nothing that can be dissected and analysed, no data can tell you what makes the village so attractive. Perhaps that's why for the 36-year-old, management of the village's golf course comes down to intuition and experience gained over years working his way up through the ranks.

For this young, modern course manager, it's something of an old-fashioned approach, but one in keeping with his historic surroundings.

"I was here when I was a young whippersnapper," he explained. "I'm a Castle Combe boy, so I know what this place was like before the golf course was built, 25 years ago. I was playing in these fields before the course was built. I was

also getting on the greenkeepers' nerves when I was a youngster and getting chased off the course! So, even back then I was learning what the landscape was like, and how it should be managed to stay in keeping with the rest of the area."

Castle Combe is centred around a 14th Century market cross, while the village takes its name from the 12th Century castle, which is hidden among trees within the grounds of the golf club.

But such a historic setting doesn't mean the golf club is living in the past, and Rob and his team have embraced some interesting practices at The Manor House. Its position as a resort course catering for both members who expect high standards and hotel guests hasn't prevented Rob and the team from experimenting from time to time.

Take aeration of the course, something that traditionally wouldn't be done until spring at the earliest.

"I was thinking, I'm fed up of doing hollow coring in March and April, when the Masters are on and

your golfers come along and say 'why are you banging holes in our greens?' said Rob. "I just think the way things are at the moment, with the weather and the climate, you can do it earlier and so we've been coring and dressing our greens at the end of January.

Undoubtedly benefitting from its location in warmer southern climes, Rob explained how coring at that time of year is still a slow process, but with golfers having lower expectations on the course anyway, it makes a lot of sense.

"The members say 'how come you're doing it now?' and we say well put it this way, by the time the season kicks off for you in April, we're going to be fully recovered so you haven't got to worry about it.

Continued over

DUST

Rob Preston - Castle Combe



The Manor Hotel



"We did some hollow coring at the end of January and we'll look to be doing it every time now. The old days of timing it for our spring maintenance, well now it's part of the winter maintenance programme.

"We have high expectations on this course, they pay a lot of money to play here and so if I say we're going to upset the greens somewhat, they need to understand we're doing it for the good of the turf. And if we do it in January, there's very little expectation, and some people aren't even getting on their courses.

"Yeah there were holes and sand on the course, but the golfers were just happy they were getting out there.

"It is site specific though, and I can't stress that enough. There was quite a debate going on Twitter with people asking 'shall we do it? The Manor's doing it!' I know of one golfer who asked if they should do it at his club and the head greenkeeper there said 'it's not for me'. But I just thought, let's see what happens.

"We can take inspiration from each other when we meet at BIGGA events and exchange ideas, but at the end of the day it's irrelevant what I do at the Manor House, compared to any other course. Each club is site specific with its own demands."

A part of the Exclusive Hotel group, Rob's team is not only



Sean Riley, Tony Simmons, Mark Bolton, Jake Jones, Jordan McLean and John Murzyn



responsible for the golf course but the 365-acre estate also includes the 5-star hotel grounds, a croquet lawn and gardens where weddings take place.

There is also a small holding where chickens are kept and vegetables grown for the Michelin-starred restaurant in the hotel and Castle Inn, located within the village but also part of the estate.

Rob said: "Obviously we have a number of departments and I'm head of just one of those. There's the clubhouse manager and we interlink regarding membership. The good thing about working together is we have quarterly head of department meetings with the general, hotel and pub managers. But rather than a challenge, it provides us with a great opportunity to expand on what we're doing.

"For example, we have a Michelin-starred restaurant and I get on well with the head chef, Rob Potter. We're already looking at what types of vegetables they may require. We've got an idea that we want to grow a lot of tomatoes,



Rob Preston



Castle Combe Golf Club

Greens staff

Rob Preston, course manager
 Mark Bolton, deputy course manager
 Jake Jones, assistant greenkeeper
 Jordan McLean, assistant greenkeeper
 Sean Riley, greenkeeper
 John Murzyn, greenkeeper
 Tony Simmons, part-time greenkeeper

Machinery

John Deere Gator x2; JD E Gator; JD Gator CX; JD HPX815E
 JD 3045R tractor; Massey Ferguson 362 (tractor with front loader)
 JD 7500 Ecut Hybrid (fairway mower); JD 3235C (fairway mower); JD8800 Terrain Cut (green surrounds); JD 2500E (greens mower with electric units); JD 2500B x2 (tees, collars and approaches); JD 220A x3 (pedestrian mower); JD 220 x2 (pedestrian mower); Toro Groundmaster 4500 (semi-rough); Toro Sidewinder (tee surrounds)
 Toro ProCore 648 (aeration); Toro Sand Pro 5040 (bunker bike); Tru-turf roller (roll greens); JD 2030A Pro Gator (spraying and topdressing)
 Kubota Outfront (long rough management); Tornado blower; Amazone; Dakota turf tender; Gambetti boom sprayer; Sweep and fill brush; Stiff brush; Charterhouse Vertidrain 7117

cabbage and herbs and garnishes. Our garden supervisor also looks after hives of bees who produce honey for the restaurant.

“The big thing for me was the owners backed me 100 per cent from the word go. I didn’t have a lot of experience, but they knew I had history here and they saw potential.

“Then since I came in, the team I’ve been working with have been absolutely fantastic and have supported me through the hard work they’ve put into the course.

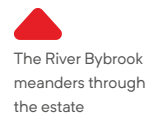
“Some of the decisions I made early doors, the members weren’t happy, and then each time something was right and it worked out right for the course, the membership would come on board. Largely the membership has been patient and they’re reaping the rewards now and I have the backing of the company.”

That faith could come from the fact Rob has been playing on the site since he was a child. He has Castle Combe in his blood, giving an unrivalled passion for the course. Rob has been course manager

at Castle Combe for two years, having taken the step up from deputy. He’s taking his opportunity to put his mark on the course, but is quickly learning that it’s difficult to please everybody.

Take greenspeeds for example, as Rob explained: “What our golfers are beginning to realise is we are a busy course — we were up 1,000 rounds in 2017 on the previous year — and some of the members complain about the speed of play, but they don’t realise this is directly linked to the speed of the greens.

“I remember a story about when the speed was starting to creep up in my first year, I had a guy who was playing off a handicap of 18. I’d see him every Wednesday morning and Saturday and he said ‘Rob I’ve been meaning to talk to you. Please, can the greens be no faster than they are at the moment’ and that was good, to have a member who understood his limitations and how fast greens would limit his enjoyment of his golf.



Continued over

Rob Preston - Castle Combe



"We've got such a huge range of golfers, whether they be off scratch, single handicappers or those in the 20s, and you have to strike a balance. The fact is we're an 18-hole golf course and as soon as it gets busy, if the greenspeeds are too quick it holds play up.

"I have taken the position that turf health is everything. In the past we've been hitting high speeds, but come autumn and winter you'll be lucky to have coverage. Then growth stops and by the time you get to spring, when everyone's saying 'right Augusta's here, we want great greens, you have stressed the plant out so much that there's nothing left to grow."

The course is built on brash, with just 2 to 3 inches of soil and turf. This means that although the greens are USGA standard, leaching is a big problem and any nutrients that are placed on the soil quickly pass through the soil layer. But these aren't aspects of course maintenance that golfers understand, unless their course manager makes an effort to communicate.

"For me, communication is key," explained Rob. "Communication is huge because most of the time golfers just want to know what's going on. What are you doing? Why are you doing it at this time of year? It may be a bit of a burden but I enjoy talking about it.

"We do a solid tine every month and a light dressing, but the golfers love that because we vertidrain, then do just a light roll after, and the golfers barely notice.

"Actually, I'm delighted with how the topdressing programme has gone. We put down 140 tonnes of dressing last year, because when I took over we had 2-3 inches in the fibre layer.

"Within two years we've got that fibre layer right down. One of the seniors said to me recently, 'hey Rob, is this what we have got to expect this year?' I said why, what's up? thinking there was a problem.

"He said 'well fast greens, blimey'. I said trust me, we're cutting at five mil', we're cutting once a week, and we're hardly rolling, but the soil is just a better quality.



The double greens of Castle Combe's 17th hole, 'Burton Brook'

"I'm not generally a social media guy, but it does have its uses. For example we opened the golf course and said on social media 'we're open today, but most wouldn't be' or another time I wanted people to respect that we had a sign up in the pro shop asking golfers not to go on the tee surrounds and greens surrounds.

"Do you know, golfers are one of a kind and most of them will take it on the chin and say 'fair do's'."

'I have taken the position that turf health is everything. In the past we've been hitting high speeds, but come autumn and winter you'll be lucky to have coverage...'

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The value of volunteering

Syngenta UK Ltd.

The value of volunteering - Syngenta



Volunteering at events gives the chance to experience ideas and practices on other courses, meet new people and learn from some of the best in the business. And it doesn't get any bigger or better than Le Golf National in France, host venue for this year's Ryder Cup, where Europe take on the US.

Around 160 volunteer greenkeepers from across the world will join the already multi-national team at the greatest golf competition in the world this month.

For many it will be a return visit, after working there for The French Open in June, and the continuation of a tradition that sees many greenkeepers travelling the world regularly to volunteer at some of the largest venues.

Lars Tveter, Syngenta Nordics turf business manager, will be a member of the LGN greenkeeping team, utilising skills developed as the former course manager at Sveio Golfpark. He is also president of the Norwegian Greenkeepers Association, Norway's equivalent to BIGGA and believes volunteering at golf events, both locally and internationally, is an extremely valuable experience for greenkeepers' personal and career development.

Working together with our partners



Lars said: “You get to learn new skills and techniques from the best in the business, both the resident teams on the host course and from the other volunteer greenkeepers involved. But equally valuable is learning to work as a team and the great camaraderie and friendships that develop from meeting the challenges of preparing and delivering a great tournament venue.”

Lars caught up with some of the team of volunteers working at LGN for the French Open to find out what they were looking to achieve and discover what they had got from the experience.

Troon greenkeeper Gary Sharman has previously completed seasonal work at LGN, along with taking part in the Ohio State Program and working at Trump Turnberry.

“I’ve learned so much in the space of two weeks,” he said. “You’re learning new skills every day and the best ways to do things. Every day you are pushed and moved on.

“It’s the best team I’ve ever worked on, and in Alejandro Reyes the best head greenkeeper I’ve worked for. You’re learning from the best.”

Gary cited the precision and focus on every little detail that’s under constant inspection as a key learn from his time and to take away for future roles.

Far left: Lars Tveter

Exchanging ideas at Le Golf National

‘You’re learning new skills every day and the best ways to do things...’

Continued over

Gary Sharman





The value of volunteering - Syngenta

"I feel passionate about volunteering as it's the people that make an experience special," he said. "As soon as you walk into the shed it's full of inspirational people. With volunteering you get to meet some real good friends that are more than just colleagues, and with social media you can keep in touch."

"Volunteering opens up so many doors and you never know what the future holds. And for building your CV, it's absolutely perfect."

Also in France from Scotland is Ross Ovens of The Roxburghe. He said he got involved with volunteering at LGN to get a better understanding of the sort of standard the European Tour expects of its selected courses, compared to what they do on their own course.

"I was curious about how they raise the bar and the extra detail they go into to present a golf course for a main tour event," explained Ross, who previously volunteered at five French Opens in the hope of being chosen for the team for the Ryder Cup. "The layout of the Albatros course, particularly the last four holes around the islands, has been phenomenal."

 Setting out duties for the day

Ross explained how he has been especially impressed with the way that Alejandro and the team has used tall fescue grasses to tighten up the course and make it harder for golfers and added: "You see and learn so much from the other guys in all aspects of course management, which may aid you further down the line if you are in the position to host a tournament."

'I was curious about how they raise the bar and the extra detail they go into...'

Ross Ovens

Syngenta are sponsors of the greenkeeping team at Le Golf National, host venue of the HNA Open de France and the 2018 Ryder Cup



The value of volunteering - Syngenta

‘It’s just a great experience to work here and to meet some of the guys from around the world...’

James Cleaver

And you never stop learning. James Cleaver is senior greenkeeper at The Belfry, but still sees the value in working at what he considers is “probably one of the best golf courses in the world right now”.

James added: “It’s just a great experience to work here and to meet some of the guys from around the world that are following

the same career as you. At events like this you get a decent amount of downtime between shifts and most of the time it is talking greenkeeping.”

James welcomes the opportunity to see how they do things differently to at home, and discuss with others how they approach challenges — not just looking after the golf course, but managing staff and the turf team too.



Top: An effective team works together

Above: Alejandro Reyes checking data to aid with course preparation

Lars Tveter concluded: “Greenkeeping is an international business with a set of skills that can be employed worldwide. Volunteering gives the chance to develop new ideas and teamwork, as well as to meet people that can open opportunities that will last a lifetime.”



Meet the volunteers find out more about their experiences and tips for preparations at Le Golf National on www.turfteamchallenge.com

Leaf Cle

The annual task of leaf collection can be one that greenkeepers dread, depending on the amount of leaf fall a course experiences.

However, it can also be one that, if not conducted effectively, can lead to more complex agronomic problems further down the line.

Jeremy Vincent of Trilo explores the importance of leaf clearance, and the consequences of an ineffective leaf management programme.

Complaints from members is the first reason greenkeepers give, in 90% of the cases, when we are called upon by a golf club to review their leaf management programme.

To thrive in this competitive industry, greenkeepers must produce a course that is enjoyable to play all year round and that includes when trees are doing their best to spoil the party by shedding leaves everywhere!

Keeping the course clear and preventing members from becoming irritated over losing balls in play is the biggest driver to collect leaves. Aesthetically it is also of benefit as collection

maintains the levels of presentation that greenkeepers work so hard to achieve.

However, there are also several agronomic reasons as to why collecting fallen leaves is of vital importance. As we all understand, a course is a living organism that requires both air and sunlight to create food and grow. Allowing thick piles of leaves to gather on your course creates a warm, dark and damp micro-environment, which is conducive to disease occurrence.


A single leaf can prevent sunlight from reaching the surface. If left uncollected, it will begin to have a detrimental impact on the health of the plant underneath.

Over time, the leaf will begin to break down — compounded further by heavier or more frequent rainfall — causing it to rot down in the canopy. This will then create issues with organic matter, such as thatch build-up, and problems with moisture retention and disease.

In addition, as leaves start to disintegrate, they will also attract unwanted movement from underneath the sward. Worms pull the leaves down into the surface, leaving worm casts in their wake. While in dry periods casts can be easily dispersed, during wet weather they are frequently too wet to break down, causing major headaches for managers of fine turf surfaces. In addition to interrupting the level lines of play, they also look unsightly and can offer prime space for weed seeds to germinate.

The industry has come a long way in terms of collecting leaves and while for some courses it's as simple as raking them into piles and gathering them up into a trailer for removal, for others the task at hand is a much larger-scale operation. The range of equipment now available can make the task of leaf collection quicker and easier, but it's important to remember that when the ground is softer, steps should be taken to avoid excessive contact with the sward. Getting out with heavier equipment when



 Fusarium close up

Appearance

Vital, not just for appearance but for turf health too

Jeremy Vincent, Trilo



the plant is already vulnerable will only further enhance stress and potential damage.

A sensible first step could be to use a blower to remove leaves from key play areas such as the greens and move them to an area off the course. The risk of using a blower independently is that you're really just moving the leaves from place to place and any wind may end up blowing the leaves back onto the course. To maximise efficiency, a

blower should be used in conjunction with a larger vacuum unit, clearing the leaves off the greens with a lightweight blower before the heavier vacuum collects them from the surrounding area without causing damage to the surface.

A blower, such as the Trilo BL400, is lightweight and has a large capacity suitable for tractors from

Leaf blowing at The Belfry



35hp.

It can be front or rear tractor-mounted or fitted to a range of mowers or tool carriers. The equipment has been designed specifically to produce very little noise, making it ideal for use on golf courses.

A vacuum sweeper, such as the Trilo S3, is also another handy tool as it will collect large quantities of leaves, grass clippings and litter. Designed in direct response to industry demands for a lightweight unit, the Trilo S3 weighs 1,200kg, is 1.5m wide and utilises a mid-range 35hp+ compact tractor.

While leaf collection appears simple in its operation, it can have negative consequences on plant health if not conducted thoroughly.

As we head towards the winter period, where grass plants will be entering a period of dormancy, it's vital that operations take place now which will help the plant to come out healthier when conditions improve once again.

Continued over



TRILO | Mid Herts Golf Club

Nestled in the Hertfordshire countryside, Mid Herts is one of only a few heathland courses in the county.

Having been neglected for a number of years, a project is underway to re-establish the native heather around the 18 holes by Course Manager Jody Wilson. Assisting Jody in creating the ideal growing conditions, is his team of five greenkeepers, and a fleet of machinery from Trilo.

"I first came across the Trilo product during my time at Woburn Golf Club, where we purchased one of the first machines in the UK" explains Jody, who has now been at Mid Herts for 13 years. "In my opinion they are leading the market for leaf and debris collection so when our previous machine started causing us problems, I turned to Trilo to look at alternatives." With two Trilo BL740 blowers already in the shed, he added an S4 vacuum sweeper to his collection over the winter of 2017/18.

The club has been working closely with Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust on a plan to open up woodland areas to encourage the regeneration of heather. Jody said: "We have a lot of oak trees which have encroached on the course over the years which means our leafing season goes on and on. Heather and long grasses don't like organic matter, so

in an effort to create the right conditions, we collect every single leaf that falls – a daily task in the winter. We use our BL740's to blow the debris off the course where it is then collected up in the S4." In use from the moment it arrived, the S4 collected over 140 loads (or 560m³) of leaves over the autumn/winter period.



Makita | Battery powered tools



Makita's Grounds Maintenance, Landscaping & Forestry range includes an increasing amount of tools that are powered by twin 18v Lithium-ion batteries designed to deliver 36volt performance.

Many grounds maintenance professionals and landscapers already have a number of Makita 18v Li-ion batteries with their Makita power tools and as they are compatible they can be used to generate 36v energy. By harnessing the power of two 18v batteries on one machine the overall power amperage produced is actually higher than that of the single 36v battery.

The Makita DUB362Z Twin 18v Brushless LXT Blower runs up to 21,500rpm, produces a maximum air volume of 13.4m³/min with a maximum air speed of 54m/s. Air volume and speed can be adjusted to six settings with variable control by the trigger to achieve a consistent delivery. Weighing just 4.2kg this powerful blower has a comfortable hand-grip and 3-stage telescopic long nozzle with 100mm adjustment on the overall length of the pipe. Vibrations are very low at just 2.5 m/s² with maximum noise at 79.1 dB(A).

The DUB362Z is supplied in body only format so that owners can utilise the Makita 18v Lithium-ion batteries that they already own with other Makita power tools.

Also in the range is the DUB361 Twin 18v LXT 2-speed Blower which will produce 4.4m³ of air per minute with an air speed of 93m/s. In low setting the 5.0Ah twin batteries will give 56 minutes run time.

In Makita's cordless range of blowers, there is also the DUB183Z 18v LXT Blower which is supplied as body only.

www.makita.com



Where can you look next?

STIGA | SBP 375 Petrol Backpack Blower

Established in Sweden in 1934, STIGA has more than 80 years of experience in producing innovative gardening products. Within Europe STIGA is a leading garden equipment manufacturer of garden products and is well known for its quality and design of Front-cut ride on mowers, Lawn tractors, Lawnmowers and Garden equipment.

The STIGA SBP 375 is an effective and efficient backpack leaf blower perfect for tackling the most demanding tasks. The powerful and reliable 75.6cc (3.1kW) engine ensures high performance, while the Auto Choke system with pre-acceleration function makes start-up quick and easy. With a large 2 litre fuel tank this leaf blower is ideal for large gardens and commercial use making light work of anything, from wet leaves on a lawn to piles of twigs and fallen fruit. This leaf blower operates with a powerful air flow rate (25m³/min) while maintaining freedom of movement. The SBP 375 guarantees comfort and manoeuvrability with an adjustable joystick handle with integrated throttle lock device. The hose is formed from articulated rubber parts enabling the jet of air to be directed easily. The padded double rucksack harness with shoulder straps and belt ensures the weight can be distributed evenly across the shoulders making work more comfortable and easier, even when tasks are more demanding or larger areas need to be cleared.

For more information visit www.stigalawnmowers.co.uk



STIGA

www.echo-tools.co.uk



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ECHO's range of backpack blowers feature ergonomically designed frames, responsive grouped controls and ultra-powerful Stage 2 compliant engines. These ensure, no matter how large the job, you have the power and comfort to work all day long. And to show that you really can depend on ECHO, every product comes with a **2 YEAR WARRANTY** in professional use.

DEPEND ON IT



ECHO

Leaf Collection

'Act fast'

to save drought-torn grass

This summer's relentless heat is likely to have far-reaching and costly effects on greens and fairways, if clubs don't take action now, warns Dr David Greenshields, from Barenbrug UK. Here he gives five tips for greenkeepers battling with the heatwave.

1

Beware a false sense of security

After a smattering of rainfall, lower-lying areas and perennial grasses such as fescues, bents and ryegrass are now greening up and demanding mowing once more. However, high spots and areas colonised with the shallow-rooted weed-grass *Poa annua* are mostly dead.

After several wet summers, these bare areas in many courses are extensive as conditions have been conducive for *Poa annua* to thrive. The recent weather has redressed the balance and created a perfect opportunity to exploit.

If left alone, the bare areas will become green again, but do not mistake this for "recovery". The new vegetation will most likely arise from new wind-blown *Poa annua* seeds, or worse, moss and other weeds. This is only a short-term fix and one that compromises playability and aesthetics.



Bare patches caused by drought conditions

2

What to do about it (and the hidden opportunity)

In dead areas, now is the time to act. Use this as an opportunity to establish drought-tolerant perennial turfgrasses, to prevent problems happening again. Scarify and remove dead material as quickly as possible and overseed with a specialist mixture.

Do not sit back and wait for weeds to colonise; this is a race against time to get seedlings established before winter. Overseeding with space for seedlings to grow, versus a wet summer with a tight sward, is going to be a lot easier for healthy, robust grass to establish.

3

Convincing greens committees to invest

Course managers understand this is an obvious course of action, but convincing committees to invest in overseeding large areas can be challenging.

If budgets are prohibitive, target one or two really bad fairways and overseed these at an appropriate rate. This is a better strategy than spreading your efforts too thinly. Document the project and use it to your advantage the next time the issue arises.

Under a range of stress factors, these areas will demonstrate what can be achieved with investment. For example, ryegrass on tees and fairways will offer improved drainage in wet conditions over *Poa* thanks to increased root structure and less thatch build-up. On *Poa*-dominant greens, more bentgrass will improve year-round playability, aesthetics and disease tolerance.



Barenbrug offer five tips to reduce costly repairs and maintain year-round playability

4 Save now, pay later

If annual meadowgrass establishes between now and autumn, and we get another harsh cold winter, it will undoubtedly quickly die back again. Re-turfing before next playing season may be your only solution in this case. Overseeding now with a hardy mixture may well save your club having to pay for more expensive repairs later.

5 Another drought doesn't have to mean disaster

This summer we've seen lots of customers seeing the benefits of previous overseeding investment. That's because bents, fescues and ryegrass are far more tolerant than annual meadowgrass and will recover quickly after drought. With so many courses struggling to maintain playability in this heat, and talk of an Indian summer to come, now is the time to act.





Creating grand designs in little Luxembourg

Leslie Cain, head greenkeeper and PGA professional, discusses the on-going bunker renovation at Grand Ducal.

The Golf-Club Grand-Ducal, which pioneered the game of golf in Luxembourg, recently began a major bunker renovation project. Having suffered significant 'bunker pain' in recent times, course manager Leslie Cain was determined to find the answer.

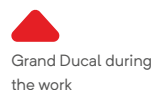
Leslie said: "The bunkers at the club cover a large area and were designed with rolled-in turf edges meeting a slightly raised sand line. They were fairly intricate in shape and pretty difficult to maintain.

"The last architect to be involved at the club used turf blocks to build the bunker edges in an attempt to prolong their life as far as possible. Unfortunately, despite fairly heavy investment, this didn't really work. There was significant erosion, bunker edges fell apart, particularly on the more severe slopes, and the bunkers became a

major bugbear in terms of course presentation, playability and maintenance."

Three years ago, Leslie was introduced to the idea of using Durabunker's synthetic bunker edge system. Having seen the product in situ, it was an idea that grew on him, culminating in the club commissioning Durabunker to remodel and renovate three bunkers as a trial.

"Having discussed the situation with Rhydian Lewis, the founder of Durabunker, we were confident the company and its synthetic bunker



edge system would resolve the major maintenance issues that we were facing, while also adding to the aesthetics of the golf course. We all agreed that an initial trial would be a sensible way forward and Rhydian brought a small team over, including their own shaper and construction manager to remodel the first three bunkers."

Rhydian suggested that the sand lines of the bunker were raised, making them more visible to the golfer and that the diving turf noses be softened, so the course could easier mow around most of the bunker edges, reducing the amount of fly-mowing.

Other tweaks included ensuring that any areas of sand face were less than 30 degrees in gradient, protecting against washout, while maintaining the rolling sand lines that identify the bunkering on the course.

Leslie added: "The bunker edges look fantastic and really frame the

Working together with our partners





so impressed that we decided to renovate another seven bunkers a few months later, again using the Durabunker team and supplementing them with our own staff.

 Grand Ducal completed

Durabunker's Rhydian Lewis concluded: "We were fortunate enough to be trusted with the redesign of the bunkers at Grand Ducal, as well as introducing synthetic bunker edges and bunker liner to the golf course.

shape of the bunkers. As many courses that have installed the product will testify, you really cannot tell that they are synthetic.

"The course experienced heavy rain events immediately after the completion of the project, yet no washout occurred and the edges were rock solid. We were

"As well as providing synthetic edges, Durabunker also offered us a choice of liner and we decided to trial a fabric liner which has worked really well, eradicating sand contamination, and coupled with the fixed synthetic edges, have virtually eradicated our bunker maintenance."

"We have the capacity to provide turn key solutions, as with Grand Ducal, but also offer self-install of our products to those clubs wishing to make cost savings. The choice is in our client's hands."

Durabunker



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"The maintenance and costs savings have been staggering." Kirk Richmond, Course Manager, Tiburón GC

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Super Bents:

Creeping bentgrasses now a viable option for all golf courses

Paul Moreton, technical sales representative for Germinal

The greenkeeping profession has made some indisputable advances over the last 20-30 years, both in terms of the machinery being used to maintain courses, and the fertilisers being applied to produce healthy, aesthetically appealing fairways, tees and greens.

The same can also be said of the latest grass cultivars, with seed breeding and research programmes resulting in such significant improvements over the last 20 years that the benefits of the latest generation of golf-specific cultivars has passed many in the industry by.

In particular, substantial improvements have been made to the quality, performance and understanding of the management of creeping bentgrasses. Yet, despite obvious improvements in disease and temperature tolerance, fineness of leaf, density of growth habit and input requirement that the latest generation of creeping bentgrasses exhibits, a section of the greenkeeping profession still references the bentgrass varieties which caused issues as far back as the 1970s and '80s.

Undoubtedly, the golf course building boom during that period was challenged by the trend of seeding greens with American-styled creeping bentgrasses. At the time, the majority of UK greenkeepers

simply didn't have the knowledge or equipment to properly manage varieties such as Pennncross or Providence and hastily took the traditionalist view that these varieties were "not suitable for the UK".

The truth is many of those varieties actually weren't suitable for UK conditions, especially on parkland courses with limited staff and resources. But it wasn't the cultivars which were to blame: they required more fertiliser, maintenance and mowing and as the industry's financial troubles crept in, so did the performance issues.

Fast forward 20 years and Dr Richard Hurley of Rutgers University in New Jersey unveiled a new generation of 'Super Bents' which were aptly named thanks to their appreciable difference compared to previous bentgrasses.

Of these new generation cultivars, 007 Creeping Bent is the first 'universally adaptable' creeping bent. 007 was developed in the US using 24 parent plants to produce a single cultivar with a wide genetic base that enables it to deliver all the qualities of a

top-rated Creeping Bentgrass in a wide range of climatic extremes. Qualities include prostrate growth habit, high shoot density and good wear tolerance.

007 DSB is performing well on courses from Dubai to Scandinavia, as well as in the UK, where it has been used successfully even on courses with small budgets and limited resources. On these courses, greenkeepers have added 007 to their swards based on their own trials results and research data and following visits to other, similar courses where the club has proactively invested to improve the quality of its greens.

Demands on UK greens have grown exponentially and at the moment some swards aren't coping. The species-inherent traits of browntop bents and fescues can only be improved to a certain extent. Where clubs are increasing their wear, play and traffic, while at the same time reducing inputs and mowing at lower cutting heights for longer, there is a definite need to consider what modern creeping bentgrass cultivars can offer.

For many courses 007 could be that next cultivar. Its main advantage is its resistance to disease, with trials in the US putting 007 in the 'very resistant' category against Dollar Spot. Germinal's own UK trials have also shown a tremendous adaptation to lower heights of cut, with 007's natural growth habit meaning it will 'creep' close to the ground and, like clovers, plantains and daisies, will adapt to survive every time it is cut lower.

The current generation of creeping varieties also has a much lower N requirement. This alone makes them suitable for UK conditions as they can easily be maintained alongside meadow grasses and common browntops. In fact, the lowest level applied in trials (49 kg/Ha) gave the best results for colour uniformity, thatch accumulation and growth. And by carrying out a typical maintenance regime of brushing, grooming, and dressing, any risk of thatching will easily be eliminated.

The final point to consider when thinking of introducing a creeping bent to the sward is that any negatives previously reported are probably based on a mature sward made entirely of a single creeping bent variety. In reality, no greenkeeper is ever going to create such a monoculture, preferring instead to use a mixture of species to create a dynamic putting surface. As an addition to an existing sward that is suffering as a result of

excessive wear, variable weather conditions and increasing disease pressures, Super Bents are certainly worthy of careful consideration.

For more information about the latest Super Bents, contact your local Germinal representative via www.germinalamenity.com

Forefront Green



Insight

The science of modern greenkeeping

Seedling help for surface recovery

Despite all the best efforts of course managers and teams to maintain watering, many playing surfaces have suffered severely this summer. After the prolonged dry weather, getting soils back to full hydration and effectively retaining moisture is a priority for successful surface recovery and overseeding to fill inevitable losses.

Germination and establishment of turf seedlings could be enhanced by the use of Qualibra wetting agent before or at the time of renovation, according to results of STRI trials.

The research, investigating the effects of hydrophobic rootzones on seedling establishment, clearly demonstrated that all the tested grass species germinated faster and established stronger with the Qualibra treatments, advocated Syngenta Technical Manager Glenn Kirby.

The trial used commercial sports turf seed of bentgrass, fescues and ryegrass species, sown into rootzone sprayed with Qualibra at different rates, either five days before or at the time of sowing – compared to untreated.

Results showed three times (200%) as many bentgrass seeds germinated and established 18-days after sowing on soils treated five days prior to sowing, compared to untreated, for example (Figure 1).



Background: Give grass seed the best chance to establish and recover surface quality this season

Top right: STRI study Director Tom Young (left) and Syngenta Technical Manager Glenn Kirby (right)

The ongoing benefit saw surface coverage at 49 days after sowing increased by 200% with fescue species and doubled with Ryegrass (Figure 2).

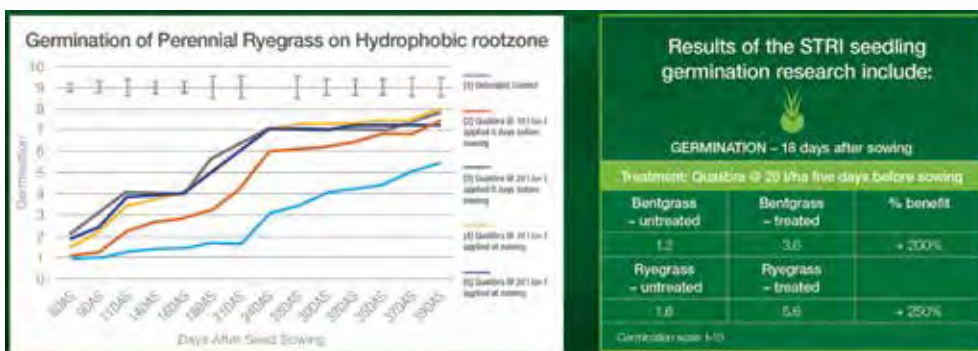
Soils used for the trial were native sand USGA-spec rootzone from Royal Liverpool (Hoylelake), where issues with hydrophobicity had been recognised.

STRI Study Director Tom Young reported: "The germination of seeds and establishment was significantly quicker for all Qualibra treatments compared to untreated controls.

"Also, the percentage coverage of pots with all grass species was significantly increased in all Qualibra treatments."

Further assessment of turf height and growth (calculated from clippings), highlighted the continued extra vigour and strength of seedlings from the treatments for over 30 days after sowing (Figure 3).

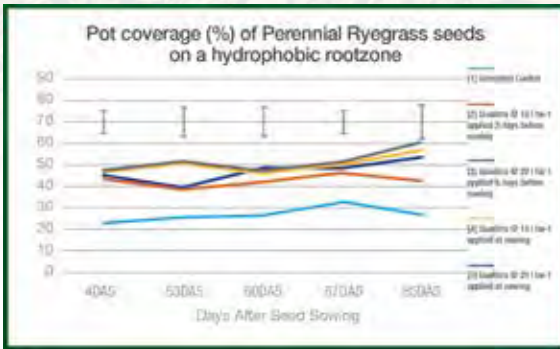
Figure 1 – STRI germination trials show significantly faster and higher rates of successful seedling establishment



Rate response

The research confirmed Qualibra treatment at a half rate of 10 l/ha did achieve significant short-term boost to seedling germination and establishment, while the full rate equivalent of 20 l/ha gave the best results in terms of long-lasting performance.

Monitoring of rootzone moisture in the trial consistently showed



Results of the STRI seedling germination research include:

COVERAGE % - 49 days after sowing

Treatment: Qualibra @ 20 l/ha five days before sowing

Treatment	Coverage %	% benefit
Fescua - untreated	17	+200%
Fescua - treated	51	
Ryegrass - untreated	23	+100%
Ryegrass - treated	46	

surfaces drier is less conducive to damping-off diseases that could hit establishment success.

With the desired soil moisture held in the root zone, seedlings and existing turf plants are well placed to make best use of any irrigation applied, particularly where available resources have already been used this season

Retaining moisture in the root zone also creates the conditions for a faster build-up of the root mass. This season that will aid both the new seedlings, and the recovery of roots on established turf that had been lost over the extreme hot summer. Furthermore, nutrients will be effectively held in the soil profile, where they can be more efficiently utilised by a stronger root network and recover turf strength for the winter.

a positive dose response to application, with greater levels of moisture observed as application rate increased, according to the STRI report.

The research confirmed that Qualibra is extremely effective in holding moisture in the root zone that can aid seed germination and allow it to establish more successfully, specifically in hydrophobic rootzone conditions.

That could have hugely beneficial implications for renovation programmes and helping to get faster recovery and coverage on greens and sports turf this autumn.

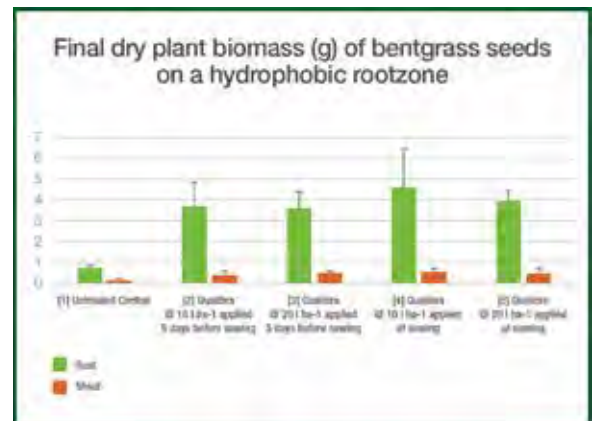
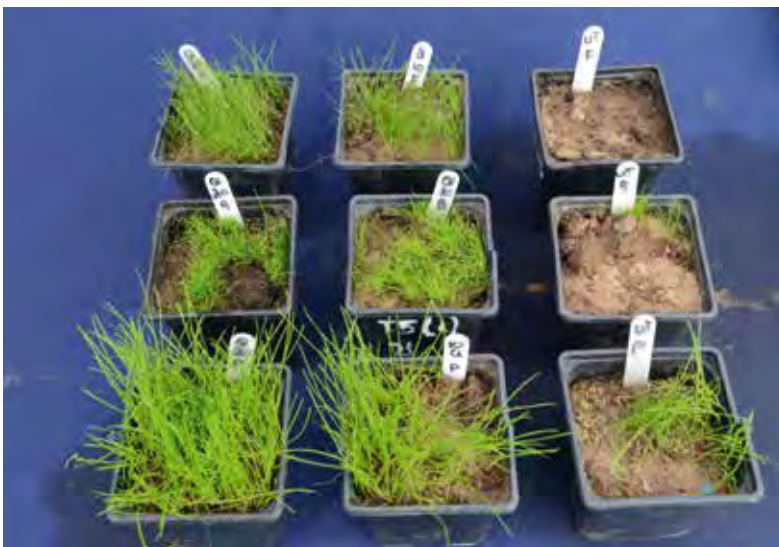
Conditions for growth

Importantly, the combination of penetrant and polymer in Qualibra ensures the surface stays firm and dry — which is good for playability — and keeping

Figure 2 - STRI germination trials show benefits of faster coverage and stronger growth

Below left: Qualibra germination trial pots

Below: Figure 3 - Biomass assessments show overall boost to bentgrass with the greatest gains in root mass





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Swapping the hot spell for more of our normal summer with heavy rain, it's now time to look at the damage the hottest summer I can remember has caused. We have swapped the wetting agent for fungicide in recent weeks! Will this become the norm? I have certainly added more wetting agent into my budget for next year. The season has certainly flown past and we now look to our winter programme.

We certainly should be proud to be Scottish, with our courses showcased at Gullane and Carnoustie. This year was the first time I had been part of the BIGGA Support Team at Carnoustie. What an amazing experience it was and it certainly won't be the last.



Central Craig Boath

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As you read this our autumn outing will have taken place at Elmwood Golf Course so results will be in next month, along with an update on how the pairs competition is getting on.

Talking of Elmwood, we had the pleasure of John Kaminski and Ben McGraw, both from Penn State, who gave an insight into thatch collapse and management of the European crane fly.

David 'Dov' Gray is moving to Leven Links from Ladybank to take over as course manager from Andy O'Hara who is off to Elmwood College to teach.

Gavin Speedie has also left Leven Links to take on a role with Aitkens.

Grahame Taylor from St Andrews Links is taking over the new project at Dumbranie and taking with him John Bowers from Crail, Graeme Davidson and Era Van Zyl from St Andrews, as well as a few others.

Craig Haldane has taken over the reigns at Gleneagles as golf courses manager. Craig was straight in to the thick of it as the Centenary Course prepared for the

European Golf Team Championships, a part of the 2018 European Championships.

All the best in the future to all that's mentioned in these new roles.



North Neil Sadler

gkneil@sky.com

We are having our autumn outing at Banchory on 27 September. We are trying something different and are going to have a Texas Scramble. The tee is booked from 10am to 1pm. This is a fun event and we'd like as many people as possible. If you are a social golfer and don't like the usual competitive strokeplay events, this is definitely for you. Even if you can't find a team of four, we will be able to help you out. After the golf and food we will be holding our AGM. If you want to have a say on how the section is being run, please let us know and I'm sure there will be space on the committee for you. The cost of the day is £25 per person or £100 a team.

On Wednesday 14 November there is a Highland education day and on Tuesday 20 November Portlethen is hosting another. The cost of each day is £20 per person and is only open to BIGGA members. Look out for more information.



SW Scotland Robert Tosh

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It was great to see wonderful golf being played in Scotland at Gullane and Carnoustie. Well done to all the guys involved including the BIGGA Support Team and in particular George Corbett from Dumfries and Galloway who volunteered at Gullane.

Love him or loath him it was nevertheless pretty special to see the current president of America playing just down the road at Turnberry. Well done to the guys down there and glad to see it all went smoothly.

Kilmarnock Barassie has completed the course changes with two new holes open for play. I hope all those taking part

in the BIGGA Scottish Championship will enjoy them. Good luck to Brian and the team there.

Big congratulations to Gary Finlayson of Kilmarnock Barassie, who welcomed a baby daughter, Camryn, into the world on 17 July. Also congratulations to Steven Carmichael who has welcomed a baby boy, Arran, and who has been promoted to head greenkeeper at Dumfries and Galloway.

The SWS autumn outing is being held on 10 October at Western Gailes and Paul Miller will be the guest education speaker talking about the history of golf in Ayrshire. There will be more details about this coming soon but I hope many of you will be able to make it and support the section.



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I'm writing this on the eve of the Northern Ireland Open at Galgorm. This is a Challenge Tour event run by One Direction's Niall Horan. I'm going on Sunday so looking forward to seeing the set up of the course.

Next year's Northern Ireland Open will see the addition of a Ladies European Tour event to tournament week. The women's competition will run concurrently with the Challenge Tour event, with Massereene a new venue alongside Galgorm Castle. This can only be great for this country, especially with The Open here next summer as well.

The BIGGA NI Day will be held at Massereene on 13 September and you can enter by contacting John Young or Rachael Duffy at BIGGA.



Section News

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

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



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Membership Services Manager
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North West Section's summer tournament



Cleveland
Anthony McGeough
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Another busy month now the hot weather passed and the rain has arrived. Cue grass factory reopening. I'm not complaining though as it means I no longer have to go out with hose pipes and wetting agent pellets to try and keep my greens looking like greens, which was quite politely put by one visitor when he stated that "if greens got herpes then these would have them!" When the weather hits extremes it only goes to highlight the limited resources available to us. We all have struggles, so don't be afraid to pick up the phone and speak to someone. It helps to know that the grass isn't greener down the road.

It's autumn tournament time again. This year it is to be held at Bishop Auckland on Thursday 13 September, 9.30am tee off. £16 for bacon bun and coffee on arrival and a two-course meal. All monies to be paid prior to the day by bacs payment or cash should you wish.



North West
Steve Hemsley
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 ntlworld.com

It was one of the last warm summer days at Grange Park for the summer tournament. Our thanks go to Gary Burgess and the team at Grange Park for organising the new format of eating before golf, which seemed to be well-received. The team prepared a fantastic course and it was great to see some new faces and also a few people

who we haven't seen for a while. It is always worth reminding people that they are very welcome to come along and enjoy a walk around the course even if they don't play golf.

We must also thank Gary and Tony from Consolidate for sponsoring the day and spending some time with us all and to everyone who came along and supported the day.

The results were: 1st, Andy Riley, 37pts (on countback); 2nd, Danny Patten (37pts); 3rd, Mark Rabone, 35pts (on countback); 4th John Mooney, 35pts; 5th Tom Smith, 34pts; 6th, Phil Collinson, 33pts; 7th, Neil Gravener, 32pts; 8th, Gary Burgess, 31pts. Nearest the pin on 16th was Gary Burgess and longest drive was Darren Chapman.

The Christmas tournament and AGM is at Wilmslow on Tuesday 20 November. Campey Turfcare are sponsoring the day.



North East
Paul Walton
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 mail.co.uk

Tom Patterson, Blyth, and Dan Taylor, Bamburgh Castle, volunteered at the Scottish Open at Gullane last month.

Dave Thompson, Hexham, recently graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Sports Turf Science and Management from the University of Central Lancashire.

The annual bunker camp is back once again. It will take place on 5 to 16 November. Check social media or contact Stuart Imeson on S.imeson.dunstanburgh@live.co.uk if you are interested in a great week of education.

We are trying to reschedule the North East vs. Cleveland go-karting within the next few months, so anyone that is

interested please either send me an email or contact the BIGGA North East Facebook page to book a space.



Yorkshire
Rob Gee
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 robgee.03@
 blueyonder.co.uk

Next golf day at Hessle on 12 September.

Congratulations to Tom Wood on achieving his degree.

Good luck to Martin Hayward who has moved from Hessle to Sitwell Park.



Sheffield
Adrian Keys
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 ajkeys79@hotmail.
 com

The summer section strokeplay competition is due to take place at Wortley on 22 August. Hopefully there will be a decent turnout after the original fixture date due to the World Cup.

Birley Wood employees had contrasting fortunes at this year's Open, with Rich Bee just missing out on progressing to final qualifying at West Lincs. On the other hand, Richard's boss Andy Unwin was again representing the section as part of the BIGGA Support Team, with Jordan Spieth having the pleasure of Andy's company in the final round.

Congratulations to myself I guess after the surprise birth of my first child - although I could have done with nine months' notice rather than the nine days that I received! Thanks to Sandra and the BIGGA team for their card and present, they were much appreciated.



Section News

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

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



North Wales
Eifion Ellis
 @BIGGANorthWales
 eifionellis9@gmail.com

Don't forget to book your tee times for the autumn golf day at Aberdovey on 27 September. Contact James Hampson.

On a sad note, Aled Hughes, 48, of Porthmadog has passed away after a short illness. He had been a greenkeeper at the club for 32 years.



Chairman

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As I write this I'm waiting for a four-hour weather front to arrive and for once it's welcome. It was a different story over at Mill Ride for the Lister Wilder Summer Cup and the sun shone all day. Andrew Ramsey and his team did a fantastic job preparing the course. I must say the last two golf days have been so well supported, with over 50 competitors at each event. Thank you for your continued support.

Gary Oliver was third with 34 points, closely followed by Peter Sands with 35 points. But way out in front on 39 points was Matt Aplin.

We had some great prizes for the nearest the pins. One was a Ping wedge, won by Doug MacGregor and sponsored by Kevin Atkinson from Eco WMT. Tony May also got close to bag the PA1 and PA6 spraying courses, sponsored by BCA. Once again a big thank you to our main sponsor for the day Lister Wilder.

Congratulations to Aaron Hurdwell, Harleyford, and Harry Misselbrook, Harewood Downs, for getting to the finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards. Good luck guys!

Congratulations to my deputy Joe Drummond on gaining his NVQ level 3.



Mid Anglia

Darren Mugford

d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com



East of England

Robert Bemment

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Mick Quince of Middleton Hall, Kings Lynn, sadly passed away in July. Mick completed over 20 years' service at the club, starting in the office then progressing to course manager until he retired six years ago. He joined the club when it was two 9-hole courses and was involved in the development to today's 18 holes.



Mill Ride hosted the BB&O's summer cup



Copt Heath Golf Club. Picture by @CoptHeathGC



Midland

Glen Howard

howie8447@sky.com

Ryan Neale from Droitwich had another great experience at Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship. This was his second year volunteering for the match raking team and was yet again an amazing experience, to be involved with all four days' play. To get inside the ropes and see up close the quality of the course following the multimillion redevelopment is an experience like no other. And of course, to meet some of the world's top golfers is usually a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I would urge anyone to apply for next year, especially the young greenkeepers. You won't regret it and with the financial help towards accommodation from our section, if you don't get on the prep team, it makes the experience easier.

The regional conference has been confirmed for 7 November at King's Norton. Keep a close eye on the website and Facebook for updates.

The next golf day will be the team event held at Harbourne on Wednesday 10 October, sponsored by Rigby Taylor. If you can't make a full team, please contact Jim Moverley who will put together players to make teams.

The Christmas Golf Tournament is being held at Copt Heath on Thursday 13 December, sponsored by Banks Amenity. This is a pairs event, which will be drawn on the day.



East Midlands

Paul Fowkes

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Our par-3 event at Beedles Lake will have been held by the time you read this so results will be in next month's report. Also the AGS pairs competition should have been completed too, so will report on that as soon as possible.

The AGM event will be held at Mickleover and will be a Texas Scramble. Details will be emailed soon.

Then on to our Christmas competition, which will be held at Charnwood Forest. Again, all details to be sent out asap.



Section News

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Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



Chairman

Steve Lloyd

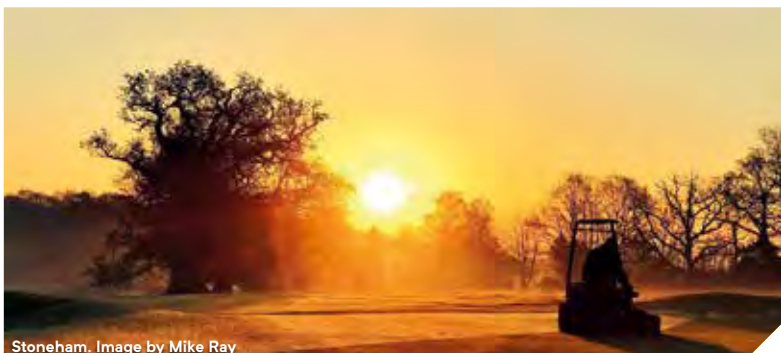
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Stoneham. Image by Mike Ray



**South West
Dave Taylor**

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On 1 August the SW&SW Region came together for the annual summer tournament. This year it was hosted at The Kendleshire. For the first time in a very long time it was a sold out event, which was fantastic to see.

With the recent dry spell of weather, it was a great chance for all participants to come along and have a good catch up about the different issues everyone has been going through.

The day itself was the first for a while to be quite cloudy and that made conditions better for the day. Being that bit cooler was a great respite for everyone and made for some great golf and low scoring.

The winner was Nigel Thompson of Lilley Brook. He won a place at the BIGGA National Championship. We all wish you the best of luck Nigel.

Looking to the future, our next upcoming event will be another hands on interactive workshop day. On 3 October we will be hosting an irrigation workshop at Cumberwell Park thanks to help from Rainbird and Roger Davey from Irritech. Like previous events, this will be a multi-station workshop consisting of different irrigation-based skills that will be great to get an insight of. As we get closer to the time more information will be posted on social media and emailed.



**South Coast
Jim Fancey**

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hgk@southwickpark-
golfclub.com

I'm sure we've all received some welcome rainfall by now and hopefully easing some worries on abstraction licences and giving our irrigation systems a rest.

I just missed out last month on posting the results of our Summer Tournament at Stoneham. It's safe to say that some outstanding golf was played and to a very high standard. Team Brokenhurst Manor were on fire with Gemma St John taking first spot with a brilliant points total of 42. Second place went to Rob Patrick of Stoneham with 39pts and in 3rd place was Kevan Glass from Brokenhurst Manor with 38pts. Longest drive was Neil Stephenson from Hockley and nearest the pin was Kevan Glass.

Huge congratulations and good luck to all the candidates who made it through to the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards. We have two representatives from the South Coast Section with Tim Brown from Hockley and Adam Jackson from Ferndown making it through to the finals.

We have a Turf Club coming up on 3 October at Hayling Island with Greig Easton and his team. Details to follow for the return of our Turf Clubs on what will be a popular event at this brilliant links.



**South Wales
Tom Howells**

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hotmail.com

With all this sun it's nice to finally get some rain, even if it is downpours.

Plenty of good scores and a good day was had at the SW&SW golf day at The Kendleshire. Nearest the pin was won by Darren Moxon, longest drive was won by Nigel Thompson. In 5th place was Dan

Harris, 4th was Ken Threadgill, 3rd was Tom Howells, 2nd was John Keenaghan and the winner was Nigel Thompson. Nigel receives a sponsored place to represent the South West Section at the BIGGA National Championship. Taking the spot for the South Wales Section is Steve Tricey. Thanks to all who attended, it was well-supported. Thanks also to The Kendleshire for hosting the event and thanks to all the sponsors who put up prizes for the event.

I hope everyone who was on the support team for The Open had a great experience and made some new friends. If you have any memories from The Open, feel free to send them to me and I'll put them in the report.



**Devon & Cornwall
Neil Rogers**

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grass.com

Now the weather has broken, every greenkeeper can put their hoses down for the time being and get back to preparing the courses that we are used to seeing. I have been seeing a lot of autumn maintenance carried out and hopefully it went well. For those who haven't carried it out yet - good luck!

The section AGM this year will be at Tiverton on 25 October. George has been doing and is planning a lot of work this year, so it will be an interesting day.

Good luck to Garry Foster, who has taken up his new role at Yelverton. I know it's only over the moor from Tavistock, but I'm sure it will have its own challenges.

Can anyone interested in the sponsored place to BTME please let the section and Tracey know by email as soon as possible. The winner will be announced at the AGM.

The section is looking to run the postponed trip to Liverpool from earlier in the year. By the time this goes to print you will have to tell Colin very soon if you're interested! The new dates are 3 and 4 October. If you are interested, can you email me or all Colin Webber on 07771 907 194.

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



Section News

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

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



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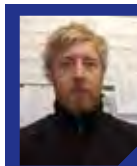
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Section News
 We want to hear what's been going on in your section
 Email your news to Karl @bigga.co.uk

I would like to congratulate Michael Fance on his new role as European accounts manager for Aquatrols. Michael will remain on our committee as golf day organiser up to the AGM.

By the time you read this we will have had our BIGGA National qualifier at Boyce Hill. Results will be in the October GI. If you can't wait, check our website.

The next golf event is the South East team challenge at Romford on Tuesday 25 September. If you wish to be considered for the Essex team, contact Michael on 07894 423 086.

It's been a busy period lately with course maintenance works being carried out across the section with the mantra of 'be patient' exercised among golfers as we make the most of maintenance windows.

Sad news as retired member Anthony Pipe, formally of Cheshunt, has passed away. Thoughts to his family and friends.

The next golf event is the summer golf day at Muswell Hill on Wednesday 12 September sponsored by Banks Amenity.



Sussex
Chris Humphrey
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FTMI has been designed by BIGGA and Jacobsen, a Textron Specialized Vehicles brand, to provide delegates with knowledge and training on all aspects of management.

Many past FTMI graduates have gone on to secure management positions at respected golf clubs around the world.

Among them was Andy McIntee, who successfully interviewed for a head greenkeeper position the same week he graduated from the FTMI programme in 2018.

Now head greenkeeper at Castletown Golf Links, Andy said: "The biggest positive change I've made is probably my confidence in myself. I was really nervous at

the start of the programme, but by the end I started to realise that I had been selected for FTMI for a reason and people really wanted to listen to what I had to say. That really helped me to gain the confidence and belief in myself that I was capable of moving on and doing something new.

"FTMI really forced me out of my comfort zone, but it has been such a positive experience."

FTMI is a three-day event that takes place in March each year at Jacobsen's European manufacturing facility in Ipswich.

Topics covered include:

Leadership skills	Crucial conversations
Interview techniques	CV writing skills
Communication skills	Creating budgets

The 20 delegates are allocated a mentor for the duration of the course, who they can also call upon after the event for advice and guidance.



Why do we do it?

Jacobsen and BIGGA recognise the importance of preparing the next generation of greenkeepers to take on a management role at a golf club. FTMI has been designed to provide practical tools and guidance to help delegates pursue their career aspirations through this professional development course.

FTMI was born in the UK in 2013 but has rapidly expanded in the years since and has been introduced in Spain, Portugal, Australia and New Zealand.

After graduating, the FTMI experience doesn't stop. BIGGA and Jacobsen host reunion evenings once a year at BTME in Harrogate and many delegates continue to build upon the relationships forged with their peers and mentors throughout their careers.

If you could offer one piece of advice to other FTMI delegates, what would it be?

Andy McIntee: The reality of greenkeeping is that the job you really want probably isn't going to be right next door to you, so be prepared to think outside the box and make the move. I went to interviews pre-FTMI and didn't get the job, but I really think FTMI gave me the edge and helped me get to where I wanted to be. Make sure you take on board all the advice you're given and put it to good use. Don't just let this opportunity be something to add to your CV.

How to apply

For your chance to be one of 20 candidates selected for the class of 2019, follow these steps:

1. To be eligible, you will have at least three years' experience working full-time as a greenkeeper. International members may also apply.
2. Complete and submit the online application form, including uploading your CV.
3. You will require a nominator to support your application. This could be your manager, supervisor, membership services manager, club manager or a trade representative.
4. Applications will be complete when application form and nomination form have been received.
5. Applications will be reviewed by a panel from Jacobsen and BIGGA and you will be informed by December 2018 if you have been successful.

If you are not successful, don't worry. With only 20 places up for grabs, competition is high. Keep working hard and try again next year, when your application will be even stronger.

**If you are successful, we'll see you in March!
The deadline for applications is 12 October.**



To apply for your place on FTMI 2019 visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FTMI2019> or scan the QR Code



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

Phillip Worth, Prestbury; Callum Goodhind, Prestbury; Ceri Fearnley, The Bristol; Yannick Webber, Cape Kidnappers; Craig Woodman, Bramshaw; Sam Dunn, Stover; Gavin Neill, St Andrews Links Trust; Craig Berry, St Andrews Links Trust.

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

David Stewart, Walmsley; Yannick Webber, Cape Kidnappers.



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

Jonathan Knowles | Myerscough College

What is photosynthesis?

We know it's how plants turn sunlight into energy, but what is actually going on?

Globally there are three types of photosynthesis for two general types of environmental conditions.

C4 photosynthetic and Crassulacean acid metabolism pathways (CAM) are two types of photosynthesis used by plants that have adapted in tropical or even hot and arid type conditions. We don't need to concern ourselves with C4 and CAM in UK greenkeeping.

For the UK's temperate region, the relevant photosynthetic pathway is C3. This is the photosynthesis associated with 'cool-season' grasses that have naturalised and are used in the UK.

How does photosynthesis work?

Over billions of years plants have evolved to manufacture food from water, carbon dioxide and sunlight.

Leafy green plants (plants that have chlorophyll) manufacture their own food — defined as phototrophs — by splitting the water molecule into its component parts of hydrogen and oxygen.

Hydrogen electrons are pushed on to carbon, absorbed from carbon dioxide in the air, to make nutrients for growth. For example carbohydrates are glucose converted into starch.

Oxygen is then released from the plant as a by-product.

The splitting of a water molecule is accomplished when sunlight UV radiation reacts in the chlorophyll, a process known as photolysis. Essentially, this is photosynthesis.

Plants cannot photosynthesise without water (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), sunlight or chlorophyll, which is a minute bio-chemical reaction site for the plant.

Chlorophyll is made up of nitrogen, phosphorus, hydrogen and magnesium. It is no coincidence these macro-nutrients (except hydrogen) are applied in fertilisers.

Temperature is also an important limiting factor. If the temperature is too low or too high, then photosynthesis does not occur.

Photosynthesis of C3 plants occurs in two separate reactions:

a) Light-dependent reaction

Photons from sunlight are trapped and excite electrons in chlorophyll to form essential compounds from hydrogen (split from H₂O) for cellular energy. These include nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH) and adenosine triphosphate (ATP). Oxygen is released via leaf pores (stomata) as a by-product.

b) Light-independent reaction

This part of the reaction is not wholly dependent on sunlight

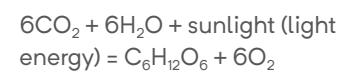
Green chlorophyll in the cells of a perennial ryegrass leaf



and may occur in the dark. In this part of the reaction, the CO₂ that plants absorb through stomata is transformed into carbohydrate.

A chemical reaction of H₂O, NADPH, ATP and CO₂ results in carbohydrate (glucose). Plants and grasses may store this as starch, for example in seeds and use this energy for growth, development and continuation of the light-dependent reaction.

Photosynthesis chemical reaction:



This week's homework! Can you explain...

- Why are plant leaves or chlorophyll green?
- Do leaves that are not green, like copper beech, still photosynthesise?
- How can an understanding of photosynthesis improve the quality of a golf green?
- What are the differences between C3, C4 and CAM photosynthesis?

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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Competitive salary, company car and pension package.

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careers@germinal.com

Closing date for applications:
17th September 2018.

For full job description go to:
germinalamenity.com/careers



Head Greenkeeper Bury St Edmunds Golf Club

Must be experienced in managing a parkland course. However, we would consider a fully qualified deputy with the right experience.

The course is maintained to a high standard and we are looking for someone who will not only maintain that but raise the course to a higher standard.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibility of the position and will include a pension scheme.

More information can be obtained by calling the general manager on 01284 755979

Closing Date for applications:
14 September 2018

To apply please send a covering letter to:

General Manager
Bury St Edmunds Golf Club
Tut Hill
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP28 6LG
Email:
secretary@burygolf.co.uk



Two greenkeepers wanted Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club



We require two greenkeepers to assist our existing team in the maintenance of our 18-hole championship golf course, 5-hole academy course, 9-hole short course and practice range. We are seeking applications from hardworking, dedicated individuals who possess the desire to further their career ambitions at a championship course.

Requirements:

- Minimum of 12 months' greenkeeping experience
- Educated to/working toward NVQ level 2
- Professional work ethic
- Willing and enthusiastic to work as part of a team and undertake a variety of tasks
- Flexible attitude to working hours (weekends, split-shifts as required)
- Hold a valid driver's licence

Please apply via e-mail, no later than
19 September 2018, to
secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk

Or telephone Head Greenkeeper,
Paul Johnson on 07881 433425



Head Greenkeeper



Knole Park Golf Club, Sevenoaks, Kent is seeking a new head greenkeeper. For further details please see the BIGGA website.

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Technical Sales Manager (2 positions)

Eastern - Herts, Beds, Cambs, East Anglia, N. London

South East - Surrey, Sussex, Kent, S. London

Headland Amenity is seeking to appoint a professional technical salesperson to help maintain our growth in the U.K. turf and amenity market.

The successful applicant will be able to support and develop sales of our quality products to both existing and new customers, contribute to new product development and work closely with other industry professionals.

They will have experience in the turf or amenity sectors and be highly motivated with exceptional communication skills.

Applications are invited from people who wish to be part of a dynamic, rapidly growing company and can contribute to our existing close team of Technical Area Managers as well as acting on their own initiative.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The position offers a quality company car and other benefits after a successful qualifying period.

Applications by post or email should include a full C.V and be sent to:

Amy Harris - Regional HR Advisor

Headland Amenity Ltd,

1 Burr Elm Court, Main Street, Caldecote, Cambridge CB23 7NU

Email: Recruitment@originukoperations.co.uk



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Around the Globe

Andrew Kelly | Golfclub Munchen Eichenried, Germany



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

I have been in Germany since 1990, but always in the Munich area in Bavaria. It's a very affluent place to live, very scenic with lots of outdoor spaces. Munich is a very green city with great beer gardens and, of course, the world famous Oktoberfest.

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

We manage our own 28-hole complex over 140 hectares. This consists of the original 18 holes built fairly simply in 1988 on very flat, peaty farming land and 10 newer holes built in 2002 with a modern design and USGA greens.

We also manage as external contractors the neighbouring 9-hole complex 'The Open 9', which has fescue bent greens.

The original 18 is where the BMW International Open has been held regularly since 1989. We have added new tees, bunkers, water features and we have changed the original design quite extensively since I started here in 2003.

How does greenkeeping in Germany vary from the UK?

I have spent nearly all of my career in turf outside of the UK, including during my studies at Myerscough. It appears to me that we have a more professional image here, although it is still not high enough in my opinion.

There are different regulations that also have an effect on which tools



are available, but we have good budgets and resources.

How does the weather affect your work?

We get more extremes than the UK, with more snow cover and minus temperatures in winter and summer temperatures regularly in the mid-30s. The rain events tend to be very heavy in short bursts and thunderstorms are common.

We work longer in the summer and have more free time in winter.

What is your club management structure like?

We are a private members' club with a general manager and a 'beirat', which is similar to a committee and who get voted into their position every three years.

What is the public perception of golf in Germany?

A rich old man's sport, although there is still some truth in that. There has been little lobbying to change this in my time here.

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

To keep contact with what's going on in the UK and around Europe. I'm a regular visitor to Harrogate for BTME and Continue to Learn.




Images of Golfclub
Munchen Eichenried

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

Try to fit in to the culture as soon as possible. Learn the language and be respectful of their laws and traditions. Moving abroad is much easier for a single person as it can be a lonely life for your partner if they're left at home during the day.



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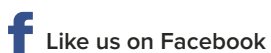
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