



GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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BTME 2019

What happened at BIGGA's largest-ever show?

Featured Inside

2018's wild weather | Golf Course 2030 | BIGGA Awards 2019
Broadstone Golf Club | Sprayers | GCMA's Phil Grice



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BIGGA Board Members
Stuart Taylor, Anthony McGeough, Rob Welford,
Tom Smith, Jaime Acton, George Barr, Chris Sealey

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer
Jim Croxton | jim.croxton@bigga.co.uk

Head of Finance and Operations
Steve Wragg | steve@bigga.co.uk

Head of Membership Services
Tracey Maddison | traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us
BIGGA House, Aldwark, AIne, York, YO61 1UF
info@bigga.co.uk | www.bigga.org.uk
Tel — 01347 833 800

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Editorial

Editor
Karl Hansell
Tel — 01347 833 829
karl@bigga.co.uk
@karlhansell



Production

Design & Artwork Production
Libbie Waddleton
libbie@bigga.co.uk
Tel — 01347 833 817



Advertising

Business Development Manager
Lauren Frazer
Tel — 01347 833 832
lauren@bigga.co.uk
@Lauren_BIGGA



Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane,
Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel — 01778 391 000

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Welcome



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

At the start of February we allow ourselves a moment of reflection before we dive head first into the coming season.

It gives us the opportunity to look back at BTME and Continue to Learn, and what a week it was. We've received overwhelming feedback, including from our members who said that the new layout was a huge improvement, once they got to terms with where everything was. There was also an appreciation of all the things we did to provide an improved visitor experience.

We are aware that there were a couple of areas of the exhibition that weren't as vibrant as we had hoped and we will be looking to improve those points for 2020. If visitors aren't directed to all of the various stands that are available, they won't have a comprehensive view of what's on offer and we'll be having a number of conversations over the coming months to ensure this is improved.

The statistics we've gathered so far indicate that BTME was as popular as ever, with one key aspect being that visitors stuck around longer. Everyone is aware of the networking opportunities provided by BTME, including those outside of show hours and it is gratifying that so many visitors attend for multiple days.

BTME was a week that was tinged with sadness for many, with the passing of Cecil George just a week before the event took place. Cecil's presence was greatly missed, especially at the annual general meeting,



Jack Percival receiving a standing ovation at the BIGGA Awards 2019

where he never failed to ask a question. Cecil kept us in check and constantly looked out for the next generation of greenkeepers, ensuring that continued opportunities and improved education would be there for them. My memories of Cecil are of a man who was sharp as a tack until the very end. He was incredibly passionate about the industry and the association and actually found it hard to understand why everyone didn't feel as strongly as he did! We'll ensure his legacy lives on in how we work to support our members.

It was also a little sad to say farewell to two board members, our outgoing chairman, Les Howkins, and president, Chris Kennedy. I have spent a lot of time with Les over his four years as chairman and he has made an enormous positive impact on the association and wider industry. Chris was involved for a shorter time, a year as president and two on the board but also had a significant impact; famous wherever he went with a story for every occasion, he flew the flag for greenkeepers brilliantly and will be missed.

The biggest thing for me about BTME every year is just how inspiring I find it. Take the finalists of the BIGGA Awards, whose stories were both commendable and heart-warming. The Celebration concluding with a standing ovation for Jack Percival, a young man doing wonderful things for society with greenkeeping as a backdrop was truly remarkable.

The Welcome Celebration was as slick a presentation as I think we've ever had, helped by the spectacular venue this year. We've previously had guest speakers such as Peter Alliss or a comedian, but this year the focus was well and truly on celebrating the industry and the great work that greenkeepers do.

May I give sincere thanks to all the exhibitors for being part of the event. We are really keen to hear feedback and we'll be talking with them extensively over the next few weeks. Thanks to our team for their efforts and all the visitors who came out and made it such a special occasion.



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From the Editor

All out of excuses



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

What distinguished those who enjoyed their time at BTME and those who struggled?

We say communication is key, but I was really pleased when I looked at the BTME calendar and walked around the show to see stands that were actively involved in developing new ways of interacting with customers.

Whether it was a 'walk through' turf canopy, augmented reality software, golf course construction live or an 18 holes of BTME competition, exhibitors were striving to find new ways of grabbing the attention of visitors to the show.

It's true that we all want to communicate with our customers — and by that I mean golfers at our golf clubs — but it's always worth looking at new ways of doing this.

Is doing the same thing year after year really good enough — and does anyone really read the words you place on the noticeboard once a month?

It's funny — we stick out a magazine every month, but it's only when we try something completely different that we get the most feedback. You may recall that time we turned Head of Member Learning Stuart Green into a cartoon character; the feedback we received for that was raucous — both positive and negative!

That idea didn't stick, but you may be aware that we recently launched a new podcast at BIGGA, entitled the Green Room Sports Turf Podcast. It's still early days, but that's been a great new way of spreading information about the hard work of BIGGA members and I'm delighted that it's had such fantastic feedback already.

I'm pleased to say that we're not the only ones pursuing this route. Up in Northumberland, Jack Hetherington and Stuart Imeson have launched Turf's Up and they were out and about in the show — when they could take a break from building a bunker and USGA green — talking to exhibitors. Another course manager, Lee Strutt of The RAC, said he prepares three-minute bite-size podcasts for members of the club, whereby they can listen to what's happening around the course.

We live in a time of many challenges, where changing legislation and increased expectation are making things difficult as greenkeepers attempt to go about their daily lives. But we also live at a time when it has never been easier to spread the news about what you're doing. Low cost approaches such as social media, YouTube videos or podcasts — after all, we all have a video and audio recorder in our pocket — are everywhere, and you can usually post these online for free, or with a very small cost.

If you aren't familiar with these tools, delegate the task to a younger member of the team — they'll be delighted to take on ownership of the project and it gives them something to really be proud of.

Communication is key and these days, there really are no excuses.

This month's magazine is indebted to the hard work of our talented designer, Libbie Waddleton, and the freelance journalists we enlisted to help during BTME. Rhys Howell and Abi Leighton. All have done an incredible job to get this magazine to print and I'd like to thank them for their efforts.

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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26 Phil Grice

The general manager and director of Royal Norwich, Phil was named as the chairman of the Golf Club Managers Association in July 2018. Phil learned the game at Turnberry and spoke to GI about how important it is for club and course managers to have a positive relationship.



30 Paul Staples

Although he was deputy head greenkeeper when the recruitment process began, Paul had to work hard to earn the top job at Broadstone. Almost a year into the role and Paul spoke to us about his plans for the future of the heathland layout and what it's really like working with a course consultant.



36 Steve Isaac

The director of sustainability at The R&A, Steve chaired an industry-wide forum at BTME that was a fascinating insight into how the course of the future may look. In this, his second article looking at the Golf Course 2030 roadmap, Steve discusses the progress that has been made since its announcement late last year.



40 Abi Leighton

A graduate from Darlington College's prestigious journalism school, Abi has been undertaking freelance work as a producer with BBC Newcastle. She joined us for the duration of BTME and dove head first into the greenkeeping industry, speaking to a huge number of exhibitors and attendees for our BTME review.



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Discussing the changing relationship between club and course managers

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Broadstone

Restoring heathland characteristics and working alongside a consultant on the south coast

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Spraying can be a tricky business but Syngenta is on hand to make sure you optimise your efficiency

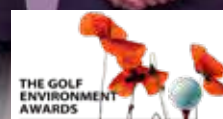


The latest greenkeeping news

Newsdesk

Golf Environment Awards 2019

Aldeburgh won Environmental Golf Course of the Year 2019



The winners of the 2019 Golf Environment Awards were revealed at a ceremony hosted by STRI Group and The R&A during BTME week.

For the first time ever, there was an international winner of an award, with the team from Golfclub Wylihof in Switzerland scooping the Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year 2019.

STRI ecology consultant, Rowan Rumball, conducted the site visits and announced the winners of the awards. He said: "Congratulations to the winners and finalists of this year's awards. We have been amazed by the work clubs and greenkeepers are doing for the ecological and environmental wellbeing of their courses and within the community.

"Environmental best practice is an important part of all golf clubs' working remit and through the introduction of next year's Home Nations awards we hope more clubs will be encouraged to enter the 2020 GEAs."

A Lifetime Achievement Award was also presented to Gordon Moir, recently retired from St Andrews Links Trust.

STRI head of ecology, Bob Taylor, said: "It was a real pleasure to be able to honour Gordon with a Lifetime Achievement Award, giving recognition to his dedication to ecology and environmental sustainability, and all he has achieved during his illustrious career.

Awards winners

Environmental Golf Course of the Year 2019 — Aldeburgh

"Creating what many thought to be impossible, an almost perfect blend of course and ecology to the point where it is hard to tell where one begins and another stops. All without sacrificing the playability of the course."

Operation Pollinator 2019 — Corhampton

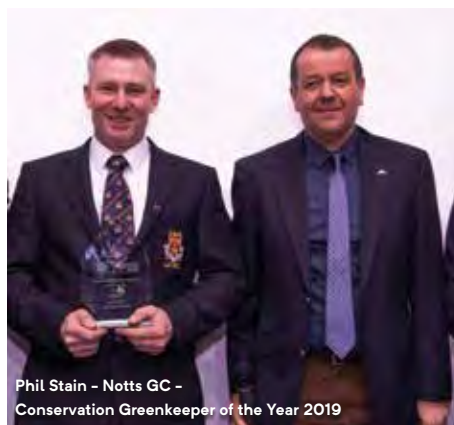
"The club has shown that you have to be brave when it comes to habitat management, but the results of their efforts are well worth it creating big new expanses of habitat for pollinators."

Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year 2019 — Phil Stain, Notts (Hollinwell)

"Phil and his team's knowledge of ecological practice maintains a course that is in keeping with the surrounding countryside and creates great community engagement."

Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year 2019 — Wylihof, Switzerland

"An innovative new design of ecological enhancement shows that we still have a lot to learn. Conservation is a young science and there is still plenty of room for new ideas."



Phil Stain - Notts GC - Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year 2019



Wylihof Golf Club - Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year 2019

Scholarships awarded to trio of BIGGA members

Scholarships awarded to trio of BIGGA members A trio of BIGGA members will receive support during their studies after being awarded scholarships.

Louis Dunn-Allen of Hadley Wood has been awarded a Baroness Level 3 Scholarship to assist his studies at Myerscough.

Mark Simmons of Kingsdown and Mark Allard of The London Club have both received Jacobsen Higher Education scholarships to assist with the HNC Golf Course Management studies at SRUC Elmwood.



Name: Jess
Age: 8
Owner: Ross Edmonds
Course: Abbey Hill
Breed: Jack Spaniel
Favourite treat: Sausage
Favourite spot on the course:
 Sat on the Club Car spotting squirrels while I change holes and also standing guard by the seed

bins trying to catch any mice that may have got inside (without a great deal of success).
Naughtiest moment:
 Knocking over the seed bin in search of mice!
My dog is happiest when...
 following dad around when he's cutting greens.
If you know a dog we should feature, email
karl@bigga.co.uk

Rick Tegtmeier in hall of fame

Rick Tegtmeier CGCS MG, director of grounds at Solheim Cup host Des Moines, has been inducted into Iowa's Golf Hall of Fame.

Rick was recognised not just for staging the 2017 Solheim Cup, but he also won acclaim for the four-year renovation programme ahead of the tournament and how he used the event to help others, providing opportunities for 87 volunteers.



Rick Tegtmeier CGCS MG

Jamie Hobson

Greenkeeper International would like to apologise after printing an incorrect image relating to the death of Stocksbridge Head Greenkeeper Jamie Hobson.

Jamie, 48, died on Sunday 9 December 2018 after 15 years as head greenkeeper at the South Yorkshire club.



Jamie Hobson

Craig gets Carnoustie nod



Craig Boath

Host of The Open 2018, Carnoustie Golf Links has appointed Craig Boath as the new links superintendent.

Craig was formerly head greenkeeper on Carnoustie's Championship Course and began working at the venue as an apprentice greenkeeper in 1996. In his 23 years at the links, Craig has been a part of three Opens, two Senior Opens and one Women's

British Open.

Craig said: "It's an honour to be asked to follow in the footsteps of John Philp and Sandy Reid. I am looking forward to leading the fantastic greenkeeping team we have here at Carnoustie.

"I will do my best to play my part in maintaining the high standards that have already been set and ensure that we continue to be a world-leading golf venue."

Tweet of the month

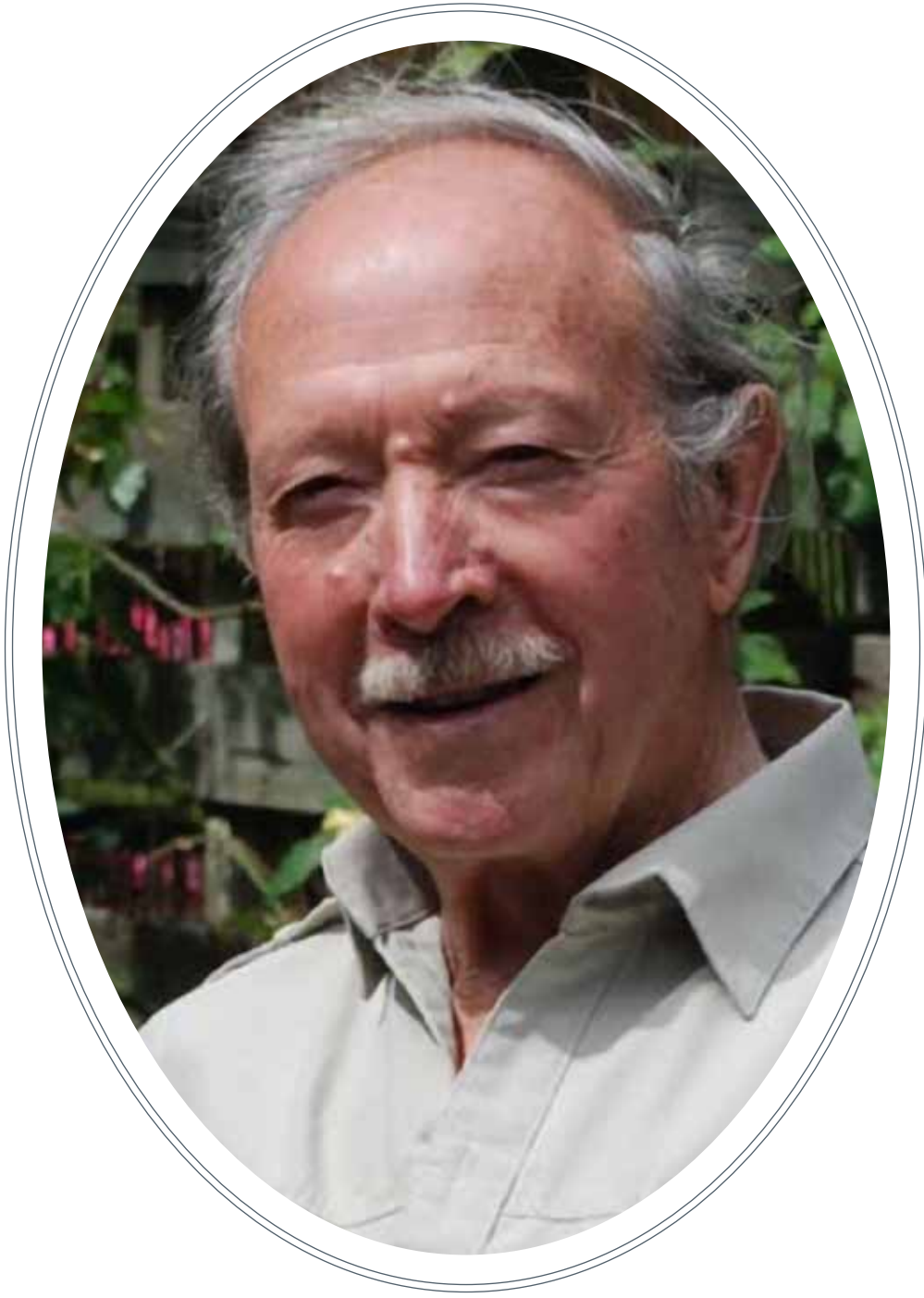
@BIGGALtd



Jason Norwood
 @TheGrassButcher



A big thank you must go out to @TYMTractors @TurfMatters @BayerAmenityUK @ICL_Turf @baronessuk @BarenbrugUK @STIHL_GB @GerminalAmenity @Hunter_Ind @NewHollandAG @BIGGALtd and any other company that has made Max's 1st visit to @BIGGA_BTME so special. I can't thank you all enough.



Cecil George

23 January 1927 - 18 January 2019

In memory of the 'man o' mony pairs'

Cecil George, BIGGA life member and former chairman of SIGGA, died aged 91 on Friday 18 January, dressed in his beloved BIGGA polo neck t-shirt.

Christened the 'man o' mony pairs' by Elliott Small, former BIGGA chairman and a fellow life member, Cecil has been credited with doing more to progress the education of greenkeepers than any other.

Born on 23 January 1927, Cecil first got into greenkeeping as a 15-year-old, joining the staff at Whitecraigs near Glasgow in 1943.

Speaking in 2010, Cecil said: "I started out as a gardener, working for my uncle. But at the end of my first summer he told me that I'd be finishing at the end of the week as there wasn't enough work for me. To lessen the blow, he gave me tu'pence and told me to go to the big white house and ask for a lemonade. I knew that the building was Whitecraigs Golf Club and as I drank the lemonade — they wanted the bottle back — I chatted to the man who asked me what I was doing. When I told him my uncle had just sacked me, he told me that there was a job going at the club for a greenkeeper."

The Second World War interceded and when he came of age Cecil spent four months with the Cameron Highlanders before joining the Parachute Regiment. Although the end of the war in Europe prevented any deployment there, he did see action in the Middle East, undertaking 109 jumps, many from as low as 500 feet.

Afterwards he returned to Glasgow, where he interviewed for an engineer's job and was told that if he returned the following day, there would be a job waiting for him. That evening he visited the pub, where he bumped into the head greenkeeper at Whitecraigs, who persuaded him that if he was to go back to the course, he would enjoy it much more.

"I went up, had a go on one of the machines and was hooked. If I hadn't met him that night, I'd have become an engineer and wouldn't have been here talking to you," Cecil explained.

Now in greenkeeping for the long haul, Cecil made his way up through the profession via roles at Fereneze and Cathcart Castle, before finally settling

at Lenzie in Dunbartonshire in 1954. He would remain there for 37 years, until his retirement in 1991.

While undertaking night school at Glasgow Horticultural College for two years to gain his Certificate in Horticulture, Cecil began to muse about how improved education could help to raise the stature of the greenkeeping profession. It was a passion for education that would last for the rest of his life.

In the 1960s Cecil set up the first ever training courses for apprentice greenkeepers at Glasgow's Woodburn House, working with Bob Moffat to teach and examine the students.

The pair worked with City & Guilds to gain accreditation and worked to establish a single curriculum across Scotland's five main college. This was followed by the development of a HNC, working with Woodburn House and Elmwood College. That was a six-year process, from inception to completion, but once established it was quickly followed by the introduction of a HND.

A member of BIGGA and its predecessors, the SGCA and SIGGA, throughout his entire career, Cecil became education convenor for the association's West Section. He then took up the role of education convenor for SIGGA, before playing an instrumental role in the formation of and then being appointed Scottish Region Chairman of The Liaison Committee, working alongside the five Scottish colleges.

In 1972 he represented Scotland at the first European Greenkeepers Conference in Switzerland and was the Scottish representative of the Greenkeeper Training Committee from 1986 until his retirement.

Other notable successes throughout his career included becoming SIGGA president in 1960 and again in 1970. In

'I went up, had a go on one of the machines and was hooked. If I hadn't met him that night, I'd have become an engineer and wouldn't have been here talking to you.'

'What I always strived for was better wages. If we got better wages we'd get better men and better students. With better greenkeepers we'd get better golf courses.'

1973 he captained the victorious Scottish team at the first Ransomes International. He was also appointed vice president in 1974, the same year he acted as editor of Turfcraft, the SIGGA publication.

Elliott Small once described the contribution Cecil made to greenkeeper training as "gigantic", with Cecil himself stating: "What I always strived for was better wages. If we got better wages we'd get better men and better students. With better greenkeepers we'd get better golf courses."

Cecil stayed at Lenzie for the remainder of his career, although he did come close to getting the head role at St Andrews Links when Walter Woods was appointed.

Upon his retirement in 1991, Cecil was recognised by many from across the industry. The following year Alistair Connell, the West Section's chairman, presented him with crystal glassware on behalf of the section.

Cecil was made a life member of BIGGA in 2010. Upon hearing that Walter Woods would be making the presentation in 2010, Cecil was said to have muttered: "Och, it'll be nice to actually get something out of the old so-and-so for a change!"

Cecil's final award was the 2018 Walter Woods Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to him at the BIGGA Scotland Awards Lunch on 5 December 2018.

Writing upon the death of his friend Robert MacDougall in 2003, Cecil said: "It is to our detriment as greenkeepers that the older members of our profession pass on and take their knowledge and skills, acquired over a lifetime, with them... I do not believe that when we die everything goes out the window. I do believe there is a Heaven. That being the case, there is bound to be a good golf course where there will be many old friends to meet and scud a ball or two."

Cecil is survived by his wife Margaret and children Lorna, Lynn and Ken.



Across the Board

Chris Sheehan | West Derby | BIGGA President

Now that the dust has settled over Harrogate, it is time to reflect on some of the things that took place during a week that was largely a success, after months of hard work by everyone involved with the association.

Changing the show around was not an easy task as there are lots of things that could possibly go wrong. But I am pleased to say that on the whole it went as we expected it to.

There are a few things that we need to look at and these will be addressed for next year. Some of our members needed a little time to adjust to the new layout but I am sure next year they will be experts.

The majority I spoke to were happy and said it was far better than in previous years, which was really nice to hear.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Croxton and all of his staff for the smiles and professionalism shown in the planning and during the show itself.

As a member, I felt extremely proud and I am sure they were as well.

As many of you know, at the annual general meeting during BTME I took on the role of president for the next 12 months. As a course manager at West Derby for many years, I am fully aware of the difficulties we face as greenkeepers and will do my best to fight our corner wherever and whenever I can.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Les Howkins MG, who has stepped down from the role as chairman. Les has worked tirelessly for the members and I am grateful to him for his guidance and great company.

I would also like to thank Chris Kennedy for his commitment and dedication to the role of president. He will be a very hard act to follow.

It would be remiss of me not to mention and also to thank his lovely wife Jill, who was at his side throughout the past year.

With that in mind, may I take this opportunity to thank my wife, Shirley, who has been by my side throughout my career. We're both looking forward to whatever the year has in store for us!

At the AGM I enjoyed a fantastic surprise. Firstly, my best mate Dave Jennions and his wife Evelyn arrived and tapped me on the shoulder and sat down.

As I was trying to get over my shock, my family arrived! Not only was that a tremendous surprise, but my sister and her husband had flown in from Menorca! That then brought on the tears. They had it all planned with the help of Rachael Duffy and Sandra Raper — or Secret Sandra as she will now be known!

At the BIGGA Welcome Celebration I was presented to the crowd as BIGGA President for 2019 and I had to face a grilling from Naga Munchetty.

It was a very daunting but great experience and I'd like to thank everyone who attended for making the evening such a special occasion.

The highlight of the celebration was seeing Jack Percival from Chipstead Golf Club receive the Outstanding Contribution of the Year award for his work with the homeless. Cue more tears and a standing ovation. Well done Jack, you should be incredibly proud of everything you've achieved — I know we're all very proud of you too.

I do not know what to expect over the next 12 months, but if BTME is anything to go by, I am in for a very, very busy year. I look forward to meeting many of you at various events throughout the year.



With Chris Kennedy at the BIGGA AGM



Speaking at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration

'As a head greenkeeper, I am well aware of the challenges we face I will do my best to fight our corner wherever and whenever I can'

Funding your future

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



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BALMERS
TURF CARE MACHINERY SPECIALISTS



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



Ecology Roundup

James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)

I hear the following statement from a whole bunch of courses I visit: "We had a great display of wildflowers in our first year, not many in our second and then almost none in our third".

Do you know why this happens?

Because the wildflowers were not managed correctly over that period of time.

Think of them as a long eco-rough area and manage the flowers the same way. What this means is, once they are established and the growing season is finished, cut them back to stubble height or lower and remove the arisings. It really is that simple!

Wildflowers are not partial to fertiliser in the same way your long eco-rough is not, so by removing any cut vegetation, you are removing any food for the flowers or — more importantly — the rank grasses, when they start growing again in springtime.

In an ideal world you would scarify after cutting every other year if you have the time, but it is not imperative.

Of course, a good deal depends on your choice of flowers to begin with.

It goes without saying that it's best not to choose flowers that are suited to bogs if you work on a links (and vice versa). Prior to choosing, take a little time to test a few things, such as pH, drainage, shade and then talk to your local seed supplier, most of which advertise in the Greenkeeper International magazine.

I find that meadow cranesbill, cornflower, field scabious, common yarrow, knapweed and campions

appear to do well on most sites. But don't just take my word for it as a little research will go a long way in making a successful meadow on your course.

This short blog was aimed at yearly management rather than the creation of new wildflower areas. Further information on developing a wildflower meadow can be found in the Ecology section of our website.

So, there you have it. Hugely straight forward isn't it? But as always, feel free to contact me at james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk or on Twitter using @Ecology1BIGGA if you have any questions.



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BLOWING HOT

the UK's wild weather in 2018

In 2018 the UK's greenkeeping community encountered two extremes of weather, going from the cold of the 'Beast of the East' to one of the hottest summers on record. Here are some of the key challenges they faced.

Weather

Despite drought, UK received
90%
of average annual rainfall due to a wet winter and spring

June was driest month with an average of 35mm falling across the UK

Parts of England had lowest rainfall for over 100 years

50cm

50cm of snow fell in some parts of the country during Beast from the East



2.2mn

A record 2.2million patients attended A&E in July — a national record

17.3°C

Hottest month was July with an average temperature of 17.3°C

15.8°C

Hottest summer on record in the UK with average temperature of 15.8°C

9.4-9.5°C

Mean annual temperature was between 9.4 to 9.5°C, making it around the 10th warmest year on record

-4°C

Maximum temperature in northern Scotland of -4°C on 28 February

Second sunniest year on record with more than
1,575 hours
of sunshine

HOT AND COLD

Source: The Met Office

The **Beast** and the **Dr**ought

31.9°C

The maximum temperature at Glasgow on 28 June was 31.9°C

49cm

49cm deep snow at Drumalbin, Lanarkshire

2 Warnings

Met Office issued two Red Warnings for snow

-10°C

Wind chill of -10°C on 1 March

6/7 days

Six out of seven days in a row at Porthmadog (Gwynedd) exceeded 30°C including 33°C on 28 June

<75%

England and Wales recorded less than 75% of average rainfall, with large areas of central England receiving less than 50%

-14.2°C

Minimum temperature of -14.2°C recorded at Faversham (Kent) on 28 February

49cm

49cm snow at St Athan, South Glamorgan

35.6°C

27 July was UK's hottest day with temperature of 35.6°C at Felsham (Suffolk)

-5.2°C

-5.2°C lowest ever March maximum daily temperature for UK at Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent

20cm

20cm snow at Seavington, Somerset

Hampshire, London and Cambridgeshire received less than 1mm rain in June

Weather



YGC

Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Alex Johnson | Chester Golf Club

Hi my name's Alex Johnson and I'm fairly new to the YGC, having joined in November 2018.

I have been at Chester for just over two years, working under a great head greenkeeper and deputy, who are supportive in helping me gain more skills and knowledge of the industry.

Before that I worked at Pryors Hayes, which is where my greenkeeping career started as an apprentice.

My career has also seen me taking part in support work at the Evian Resort in France in September 2018, working on the women's Evian championship, the last major of the season for the women.

When I was offered the opportunity to become a member of the YGC, I immediately said yes.

Joining the YGC has given me an insight and an understanding into greenkeeping from a younger greenkeeper's point of view. It has also helped me with networking and communicating with other people in the industry.

I want to help the YGC grow and would also like to help other young greenkeepers, including myself, to develop their knowledge and understanding of the job and industry.

At BTME this year I attended the



1st tee at Chester

Young Greenkeepers' Committee Conference. The conference was not just educational, but it was also an opportunity for young greenkeepers and the other people that attended to meet and get to know other people within the industry. Through these conversations we heard about their experiences and knowledge they had gained within the industry.

The conference also provided some great speakers, covering topics that ranged from the practical skills such as the construction of a USGA green, to other speakers who talked about the importance of face-to-face

communication. There was also a talk about stepping up to a first assistant or deputy role and advice to help develop your role and responsibilities.

These talks hopefully gave everyone there some good tips and advice that will help them progress throughout their career.

I would like to thank Baroness for kindly sponsoring and supporting the YGC conference. I would like to also thank everyone at BIGGA for making BTME and Continue to Learn happen.

Last but not least, a thank you to all of you that have taken your time to read this. If you're interested in getting involved with the YGC, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd love to hear from you and we're always looking to expand our network of young greenkeepers.



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Toro Greensmaster



Greensmaster eTriFlex in action

Toro's new hydraulics-free Greensmaster eTriFlex with Lithium-ion battery cuts noise by 50% for quiet, leak-free clean cutting and was launched at BTME 2019.

Toro said the eTriFlex is an example of Toro responding to customer demand by creating a machine that significantly reduces noise.

This allows work to start earlier and may circumvent noise regulations.

Jeff Anguige, national sales manager, said: "The eTriFlex is a mower you

could talk about all day. It's quiet, and with no hydraulics it delivers clean and leak-free cutting. It ticks the green credentials box with its all-electric components and brings an estimated 22% saving in fuel, in comparison to, say, the Greensmaster 3320, thanks to its efficient power supply."

Alongside the Lithium-ion battery is a Kawasaki twin cylinder 14hp air-cooled engine with a reduced speed of 2400rpm, shrouded in venting, which reduces noise levels.

Headland Amenity

BTME 2019 saw the introduction of three products to Headland Amenity's range of speciality fertilisers and chemicals

The additions include H-Cote and Protec Plus fertilisers and triple-active selective herbicide, Columbus.

H-Cote controlled release fertilisers are a range of mini-granular fertilisers, designed to fill the gap between traditional outfield and fine turf products.

Protec Plus liquid fertilisers feature slow-release nitrogen from a liquid source of methylene-urea. Headland states that the low salt index of this material renders the finished products safe to apply, even under extremes of hot and dry weather.

Headland's triple-active selective herbicide Columbus is formulated



H-Cote-Mini granule

from Clopyralid, Fluroxypyr and MCPA for control of a broad spectrum of common turf weeds. The micro-emulsion formulation provides enhanced herbicidal activity.

Rain Bird

Rain Bird has introduced a new Sod Cup Kit that reduces the risk of rotors negatively impacting play on closely-mowed approaches to golf course greens.

The cup is the same size as a standard golf hole cutter, and covers the top of irrigation rotors, hiding the equipment from view.

Jimmy Sandison, regional golf sales manager for Rain Bird, said: "As well as improving playability and course appearance, the sod cup kit doesn't compromise rotor functionality. Even with the kit installed, 551 and 700/751 Series rotors maintain their top serviceability and timeless compatibility with other Rain Bird Golf products."

Jacobsen

Textron Golf showcased the new Cushman Hauler ELITE vehicle at BTME.

The 800 ELITE series uses the same advanced technology as the E-Z-GO ELITE series of golf cars. Activated by Samsung SDI lithium power, the range offers faster charge times, consistent performance and increased range.

"The new Cushman Hauler ELITE series is a natural progression for us," said Richard Comely, international product management director at Textron Golf. "The E-Z-GO ELITE series has been a resounding success and we are very excited to be introducing the ground breaking technology to other vehicles."

The series is powered by a 48-volt electrical system and is a two-person capacity vehicle. Textron also showcased other equipment from Jacobsen, E-Z-GO, Cushman and Turfco at BTME.

Aqua Aid



Aqua Aid Europe introduced a biological method of treating water at BTME.

Based in South Africa, Makro Organics are pioneers in environmental technology and offer alternatives to conventional chemical treatments

OxyFlow provides a solution for pipe and irrigation systems, while OxyCure is applied to lakes and ponds to reduce eutrophication that results in unnatural algae blooms and aquatic plant expansion.

Aqua Aid's Hans de Kort, said:

"These are special products that needs to be explained to the end user, but the smaller companies don't have enough power to get them introduced to the market, which is why we have come on board to help them out.

"In the long run we want to phase out all the chemicals in the environmental system. If you can get rid of a problem in a natural way why would you use chemicals? Most biological means are more expensive than chemicals, but you find many of the chemical companies are now investing in biological solutions."

Operation Pollinator

Syngenta's Operation Pollinator has had over 100 clubs sign up in the UK, since its launch.

The initiative promotes ecological habitat creation on golf courses, providing a valuable ecological asset for bumblebees and other biodiversity.

Announcing the milestone at BTME 2019, Syngenta Turf Business Manager Dan Lightfoot MG said: "Operation Pollinator enhances the overall playing experience. The wildflower areas improve visual appearance and it creates valuable positive publicity for the club and for the industry as a whole."

Operation Pollinator is the culmination of more than 15 years' research by Syngenta into the environmental management of habitats for bumblebees, butterflies, spiders, beetles and other insects.

The golf-specific programme has been backed by four years of trials by the STRI and has the support of independent ecologists and research on golf courses across the UK to establish and develop wildflower areas in out of play rough.

Dan said he believes even the



most intensively played courses can find space for environmental habitat creation, including out-of-play rough, behind tees and greens, on rough carries and alongside woodland or water features.

He added: "We now have positive examples of every type of course getting involved at different levels.

"All the clubs are incredibly willing to share their experiences and advice through the Operation Pollinator network."

Club Car

Club Car unveiled its lithium ion-powered golf car, TEMPO LI-ION at BTME.

TEMPO LI-ION is a redesigned car with a lithium ion battery that integrates into the car's construction and operating system. The result is up to 50% electricity savings and a zero maintenance battery.

"After thoughtful research, design, development and testing, we're proud to deliver the TEMPO LI-ION to the course management community across the globe," said Mark Wagner, president of Club Car.

Shelton

Lincolnshire sportsturf drainage experts Shelton launched their latest machine at BTME.

The 6 Tonne Universal Sand and Gravel Hopper has been designed to fulfil a combination of different tasks associated with backfilling and sand spreading on sportsturf after drainage has been carried out.

The Universal contains a moving floor in the main hopper in the form of a conveyor, which can feed a centre fill to place gravel or sand into the trench after drainage pipes have been installed.

Germinal

Germinal showcased its ForeFront Greens grass seed mixture at BTME in Harrogate from 22 to 24 January.

Containing a blend of three top-ranking bentgrass varieties, ForeFront Greens is rated for cutting heights down to 3mm.

The mixture contains AberRegal and AberRoyal, which were both bred at IBERS in Aberystwyth from parent material originally sourced in the UK.

The third bentgrass in the mixture is 007 DSB, which has been used at Ryder Cup and US Open courses and at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth.

Charterhouse becomes education supporter



The Charterhouse team at BTME

BIGGA is delighted to announce that Charterhouse Turf Machinery has become the latest Education Supporter of the association.

In their new capacity, Charterhouse will support members and those in the wider greenkeeping sector to provide educational opportunities through the BIGGA framework.

Commenting on the new partnership, Charterhouse Sales Manager Nick Darking said: "We have been a supporter of BIGGA for many years, in many different guises, including a number of years as sponsors of the annual National Championship.

"We are proud to now be working alongside BIGGA as an education

supporter, helping to provide valuable professional development and educational opportunities to those in our greenkeeping industry."

For over 35 years, Charterhouse has been a leading provider of professional maintenance machinery to keep both natural and artificial surfaces in first-rate condition.

The company distributes the Redexim range of aerators, overseeders, topdressers and scarifiers for natural turf.

To compliment this, the Graden range of pedestrian verticutters and the BLEC range of specialist landscaping and turfcare products are also available.

BIGGA Business Development Manager Lauren Frazer said:

"Charterhouse has been a massive supporter of BIGGA for many years and so I'm delighted that we've formalised our relationship with the team by welcoming them as BIGGA Education Supporters.

"Working closely with the biggest names in the industry allows our members to benefit from their knowledge and expertise, which can only help to raise standards across the industry."

Bernhard and Company



Lee Moss demonstrating the angle grinder at BTME

BTME gave turf professionals a first opportunity to see Bernhard and Company's Anglemaster 4500.

Described as a 'revolutionary automated sharpening system', the grinder is Bernhard's most flexible system within the range.

Steven Nixon, director for Bernhard and Company, said: "We have had a fantastic

year at Bernhard and we are confident that the new additions to the range will provide equipment managers and mechanics with a greater choice of machines that adapt to different ways of working."

A touch screen interface, new drive adaptors, smart motors and fully-automated feed system are all features of the Anglemaster sharpening system.

Toro Student awards



David Cole of Reesink Turfcare with Steve Oultram of Wilmslow who nominated 2018 winner Daniel Ashelby

Entries into Toro's Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award last year were up, with over double the amount from employer nominations.

This is a fact attributed to commitment to career development from golf club employers, course managers and head greenkeepers, said David Cole of awards sponsor Reesink Turfcare.

David added: "These results were hugely pleasing for us. It demonstrates the faith employers have in the abilities of their students. We're aware that without those who nominate their greenkeepers, we wouldn't find the talent we do, hence why we applaud those who let us know about their bright and shining stars."

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Membership Team
01347 833 800 (option 1)



Tracey Maddison
Head of
Membership
Services
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk



Elaine Jones
Membership
Administration
Manager
elaine@bigga.co.uk



Rachael Duffy
Membership
Events Manager
rachael@bigga.co.uk



Gil Mason
Membership
Administrator
gil@bigga.co.uk

Full Members Personal
Accident Helpline
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Legal Assistance
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Membership

'What's in

Tracey Maddison, BIGGA

As Europe's largest greenkeeping membership association, we have, over the last 30 years, worked hard to position ourselves as a well-respected and integral part of the golf and turf industries. This progress is due to the dedication of very many members who have contributed voluntarily through committee work and support of BIGGA activity, as well as the team of staff.

This important progress has meant we can now focus on the future. You may have noticed in the last few months that a few of us within the BIGGA team have changed our job titles, to emphasise and support BIGGA's key strategic goal of supporting our members.

To align ourselves better in supporting this goal, a staff restructure took place and saw the creation of the Membership Services Department. I was delighted to be asked to head up this department and lead this incredibly-talented and passionate team in supporting our members and once

again be able to draw upon my many years of experience working in membership environments and influence membership strategy going forwards.

Who are the team?

You may have noticed that the regional administrators (RA's) have updated their job title to membership services managers (MSM's), which better reflects the role they have within the team.

The MSM's will continue to have responsibility for regional boards, hosting region events and supporting section committees, but the change in job title will reflect the renewed focus upon engaging with members. This will involve raising awareness of the benefits and support that comes from being a member of BIGGA.

The term 'RA', as they have been affectionately known for many years, may well take some changing, but the team of John Young (Scotland and Northern



a name?'

Ireland), Sandra Raper (Northern), Roger Butler (Central England), Tracey Walker (South West and South Wales) and Kerry Phillips and Clive Osgood (South East) remains unchanged.

James Hutchinson has become Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability). He will continue to support members and their golf clubs by offering environmental management plans, ecology reports, walks and talks, flora and fauna identifications, recycling and general sustainability information. James' role is to assist course managers, greenkeepers, club professionals and other golf course staff in their drive to become more sustainable, with the change in job title reflecting the renewed focus on engaging with members.

Rachael Duffy is now Membership Events Manager. Rachael continues to organise and administer the many event opportunities BIGGA manages

throughout the year, in addition to supporting the team in specific membership projects.

Any one of the team will be able to discuss and advise members, depending on their chosen career path, where their interests lie or a specific concern on which benefits and services would be most helpful to them.

I'm really excited about the next phase in BIGGA's strategy and believe we can offer BIGGA members an enhanced membership experience. We can focus completely on supporting and growing BIGGA's membership and in turn develop our communication and engagement, all with the skilful support of both Elaine Jones and Gil Mason, who continue to assist the team, in addition to looking after all the membership administration needs.

Contact details for all the team can be found throughout this magazine. Please don't hesitate to drop us a line!



Welcome new members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Stuart Kerr, Carnoustie, GK; **Jacob Gatier-Hay**, Luffness New, AGK.

Northern

Jake Green, Barrow, APP; **James Hendry**, Formby, APP; **Matthew Harding**, Gathurst, APP; **Sam Hignett**, Lee Park, APP; **Andrew Wolstencroft**, Carlisle, APP; **Dylan Duggan**, Gatley, APP; **Nicholas Wadsworth**, Lymm, APP; **Ellis Wilson**, Bondhay, APP; **Joe Jamieson**, Romiley, APP; **Adam Parker**, Withington, APP; **Kit Gregory**, St Annes Old Links, APP; **Jamie Brown**, Calverley, APP; **William Batty**, Otley, APP; **Owen Elwood**, Oak Royal, APP; **Jamie-Lee Smith**, Queensbury, APP; **Jack Beadle**, Brough, APP; **Hayden Pettit**, Brough, APP; **Lee Williams**, Avro, HGK; **Daniel Hirst**, Burnley, HGK; **Jason Cotton**, Crewe, HGK.

Central England

Tiffany Mills, Ryston Park, APP; **Jack Holman**, Denver, APP; **Samuel Shaw**, Welcombe, APP; **Jonny Coombes**, Coventry Hearsall, APP; **Tom Feasey**, The Vale, APP; **James Bishop**, Kidderminster, APP; **Cameron Kelly**, Copt Heath, APP; **Nathan Ray**, Stonebridge, APP; **Andrew Moore**, Abbey Hill, APP; **Alexander Ashwin**, Burghley Park, APP; **Alex Dobbins**, The Oxfordshire, APP; **Rhys Emery**, Lutterworth, APP; **Brandon Watkins**, Robin Hood, APP; **Joshua McLoughlin**, Welcombe, APP; **Aaron Harding**, Donnington Grove, APP; **Glen Greiner**, Donnington Valley, APP; **Jack Gammon**, Trent Lock, APP.

South West & South Wales

Alex White, Westcountry, APP; **Dan Biddiscombe**, Cannington, APP; **Ewan Burden**, Crane Valley, APP; **Robert Clarke**, Sidmouth, APP; **Daniel Merrett**, Tewkesbury Park, APP; **Jonathan Jeffcock**, Tadmorton Heath, APP; **Alex Kley**, Wareham, APP; **Max Westerman**, Stoneham, AGK; **Eric Linge**, Parkstone, AGK; **James Harris**, St Mellion, AGK; **James Ferris**, Stoneham, AGK; **Paul Chard**, Henbury, AGK; **Shane Farrar**, Portmore, M.

South East

Isaac Mcmillan, Royal Wimbledon, GK; **Peter Jones**, PJ Lawncare, A; **Jamil Weekes**, East Herts, APP; **Tom Carding**, Great Yarmouth & Caister, APP; **Bethany Turner**, Rookery Park, APP; **Georgi Vlahov**, The Wisley, APP; **Simon Kozic**, Leatherhead, APP; **Samuel Bailey**, The Wentworth Club, APP; **Luke Collis**, Sudbury, APP; **Sean Meaney**, Oakland Park, APP; **Michael Browne**, Glendale Golf, APP; **Viktor Ivanov**, The Wisley, APP; **Daniel Johnson**, Mid Sussex, APP; **Jake Taylor**, Queenwood, APP; **Jonathan Cowlard**, RAC, APP; **Edward George**, Queenwood, APP; **George Hockley**, South Essex, APP; **Andrew Crisford**, Sene Valley, APP; **Lewis Morris**, Royal Blackheath, APP; **Jack Chandler**, Sundridge Park, APP; **Jack Hopgood-Haines**, Sundridge Park, APP; **Haydn Gray**, North Foreland, APP; **Tyler Eve**, Sheerness, APP; **Harry Miller**, Royal St George's, APP; **Drew Hodson**, Hythe, APP; **Daniel Mackenzie**, Oaklands College, S.

International

Keith Byrne, The Island; **Spahlholz Sebastian**, Golf du Sart; **Boris Ravier**, Golf de Lavaux; **Sergei Nikitin**, Raevog Golf; **Olgia Ponomareva**, Raevog Golf; **Koert Donkers**, Netherlands Golf Federation; **Niels Dokkuma**, Netherlands Golf Federation.

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



Learning & Development Team
01347 833 800(option 3)



Sami Strutt
Head of Member
Development
sami@bigga.co.uk



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



Deb Burnett
Special Projects Manager
& PA to the CEO
deb@bigga.co.uk



Emily Chandler
Events Administrator
emily@bigga.co.uk



The Greenkeepers
Training Committee Ltd.



Fiona Lyttle
Manager
01347 838 640
fiona@the-gtc.co.uk



Emma Willis
Administrator
01347 838 640
emma@the-gtc.co.uk

www.the-gtc.co.uk

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Do you want to with Continue



Stuart Imeson of Dunstanburgh Castle and Allan Patterson of Trump Turnberry presenting at the Links Forum

With BTME and Continue to Learn 2019 in the bag, planning is already underway for next year's education programme.

Continue to Learn was greatly expanded for 2019, with 250 hours of education and 1,000 additional spaces made available for visitors.

For the first time, half of all the available spaces were available without any charge, making the education programme more accessible than ever before.

BIGGA Head of Member Development Sami Strutt said: "That's a huge amount of free education, so if you think you can't afford to attend Continue to Learn, that isn't the case and there really is something for everybody.

"This year we introduced a range of new events and these were really successful. The Deputies' Conference, the Ecology and Environment Forum and the Links Forum were all very well-attended. One speaker at the Links Forum saw the list of attendees and said

'this audience is the great and the good of links golf!'

"Continue to Learn 2019 was awesome and we are already looking forward to 2020. We have started to receive

What our delegates think

"Brilliant topics and presentations delivered by some of the best professionals in our industry"

"Yet again BIGGA delivered an enjoyable, educational and informative conference"

"An interesting programme that will prove useful to me in the future"

"Fantastic value for money with a range of very informative topics"

"We should all be doing this to improve our personal and professional life"

to get involved to Learn?

proposals for potential workshops and seminars and so if you want to get involved, there's no time to waste!"

The 'Proposal to Present' process has already begun for Continue to Learn 2020, taking place from 19 to 22 January at the Harrogate Convention Centre and nearby venues.

If you are interested in hosting a seminar, workshop or event during the education programme, you can submit your proposal through the link on the BIGGA website, by scanning the QR code below or by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/P2PCTL20

All the proposals will then be presented to the BIGGA membership, who will have the opportunity to choose which education they would like to see. The proposals that receive the most votes will be included in the Continue to Learn at BTME 2020 education programme.

The closing date for proposals is 15 March 2019.

Continue to Learn at BTME is presented by BIGGA.



Continue to learn

Paul Miller presenting at the Links Forum

Scan the QR Code to submit your proposal




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

Simon Pyett, Halesworth; Craig Mackay, Royal Dornoch; Alexander Anderson, Spalding; Sam Bethell, Chipstead; Les Howkins MG, Richmond; Scott Corrigan, Royal Troon; Callum Goodhind, Prestbury; Matthew Purcell, Marriott Forest of Arden; Niclas Ericson, SRUC Elmwood; Andrew Laing, Gaudet Luce; David Rumbles, Elgin; Stephen Sutherland, Carnoustie; John Parr, Exeter.

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

Sam Bethell, Chipstead; John Scurfield, Morpeth; Leigh Powell, Windlesham; John Parr, Exeter; Tom Smith, Colne Valley.



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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

The view from the club manager's office

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Phil Grice is chairman of the Golf Club Managers Association, which supports more than 1,800 members across the UK.

The GCMA and BIGGA, alongside the PGA, are working together to improve the way golf clubs are operated, creating a framework that is more professional and produces accountability and opportunities for development.

A PGA professional, Phil is also general manager and director of Royal Norwich and we spoke to him at the opening of the club's new turfcare facilities about how he views the role of greenkeepers, from the other side.

You've got a real understanding about the importance of working with your staff to develop a better golf product, would you agree?

Absolutely. As somebody who's previously been a proprietor, one of the fundamental things when you go into a member's club is people start telling you 'it's different here, this is a member's club' and you need to explain to them that as a proprietor, the member is absolutely the customer, you can't lose the customer. So you have a duty of care

to look after every single member.

If you have a leaking bucket then as quickly as you bring in new members, you're losing old ones. You've got to take a step back and think, if I have the best staff that look after the customer properly, who produce a product that they want, then I'm closing all the holes in my bucket.

Unfortunately, in golf, members don't always look at it like that. There's no individual responsibility, instead there's a collective responsibility shared among the committee. This is weaker than a

statutory or a financial responsibility that maybe a proprietor has, when you tend to look at things more with a view that you need to get things right, because your job and your business are on the line.

So for me, we're bringing in a slightly more commercial attitude to a members club. For example, if we want to have a benchmark facility, then we need to start by feeding the guys. You wouldn't have a racehorse and after each race give it a curry and 12 pints of lager. So, after our guys come in each day, we give them a meal. The days of them coming in with a Ginsters pie and a couple of Mars bars and a can of Coke for their break are gone. We give them a meal, they get their carbs and their proteins and we make sure we fuel them properly.

This hasn't been a short project to get it where it's at. Some of the guys out there produce unbelievable playing surfaces out of pig sheds, but they're



'out of sight, out of mind' from the rest of the club, and that can't be the way forwards.

You've only got to look at Formula 1 and how those workshops look. If you want your car to run properly, you've got to give the mechanics the tools. The greenkeepers are the mechanics in our business as they produce the surface.

How do you see the relationship between the club manager and the greenkeeping team developing?

If you're a manager worth your salt, you've got to look at it like, 'I'm the conductor of the orchestra'. I don't actually play every instrument and for me to think I can play every instrument better than the person whose job that is, that's madness. I need my director of

golf, I need my front of house, I need my chef, I need my head of estates or head greenkeeper, I need all those people on exactly the same page. They need to understand exactly what we're trying to do and we all need to understand how we all work together.

It's absolutely a team thing and in the same vein, [Director and Estates Manager at Royal Norwich] Peter Todd has joined the GCMA and my director of golf is asking me if he could go to BTME. He wants to know more about the golf course, so when the greenkeepers come in and say 'we're doing X, Y and Z', he wants to have an understanding of that process.

I think that's a cultural thing, where you can either have your departments completely separate and essentially

'Some of the guys out there produce unbelievable playing surfaces out of pig sheds, but they're 'out of sight, out of mind'.

franchise them out so they never meet, or you can bring them together and share the stresses that you have and the issues you face.

As a proprietor I once had a scenario where everyone did a week in everyone else's department and that led my chef and my front of house to have a greater understanding of what it's like to be a greenkeeper. That was a dynamic change and I worked much harder to bring them all together.

It's amazing to think that in some places, the greenkeeping team aren't even allowed in the clubhouse.

We were one of those many years ago that in the rules of the club, all staff were deemed as servants. Even the professionals weren't allowed in the clubhouse, you were just a servant to the club.

Continued over



Phil Grice showing people around the build site at Royal Norwich



Undertaking the qualification in golf club management

My old boss Terry Brock told a story after he had played in in the Open Championship, when he was the pro at Walton Heath. He played four rounds of the Open and came back to Walton Heath on the Monday, where he was cleaning shoes for the members and nobody even acknowledged he had played in the Open. And that's the way the world was.

You can now see how for me, fundamentally, the facility at Royal Norwich is different. This facility is a training area and that's absolutely the heartbeat of this business going forwards. From standard operating procedures to all sorts of learning, this won't just be for the greenstaff, it will be for the whole facility. They can be away from the membership and away from the customers and they can actually come and we will do training. Whether it's influencing skills, financial training, whether it's HR training or health and safety training, we've got somewhere now where we know we can work from.

Just having a designated learning space is fundamental and the board and the wider membership understand that. Richard Branson says some good things and some bonkers things, but the line which he uses that I really love is that as a manager you don't worry about the customer, instead you should look after your staff. If you look after the staff, they'll look after the customer.

I fundamentally believe that if I give my guys the best facility that we can, then they are going to have a slightly bouncier step coming in to work and they're not going to be looking at their

watches, trying to get away.

If we show faith and pride in them, then they will return that.

We at BIGGA have been encouraging our members to get involved in the new qualification in golf club management because we think the skills they learn are very transferable. We've been talking about how we think that's a good idea. Would you agree with that from the GCMA's point of view?

Absolutely. The fact it's modular is really good, so even if you weren't doing the individual qualification, you could do the specific things you think you want to improve on. I was away with Jim [Croxton] at The R&A Forum and there's a sea-change between ourselves,

BIGGA and the PGA where we actually realise that we are strong when we work together. A lot of our skills are transferable, but we've essentially got three different training departments going on and there's definitely a need for us to work together to look at what we might be unnecessarily duplicating.

We need to look progressively and not just at our own world. For example, club managers need a very good general overview of greenkeeping and to understand what you need to know about course set up for everyone at the golf club who isn't a greenkeeper.

The greenkeeper should also understand how committees work, so his influencing skills become better. For too long the greenkeeper has been the guy or the girl out in the shed, where people don't really give them the sort of respect that they should.

I've spoken to various leaders in golf and I've told them that they need to go to BTME and they need to go into one or two of those bars at midnight on a Monday or a Tuesday to see hundreds of greenkeepers, nobody's drunk, everyone's sharing information, everyone's talking about 'have you used this bit of machinery'. I've got to say I've been blown away with it.

I've been a PGA member for 30 years and we don't have that camaraderie within the PGA. We try to pull it together a little bit in the GCMA with our network of events on a smaller scale, but people need to go to BTME to see that knowledge pool that's coming together.

You can see those first three or four days, that's where the guys go to be refreshed and reinvigorated and it's absolutely vital to their success.



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Broadstone

Looking back to go forwards

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Broadstone

Walk down the first fairway at Broadstone and you'll be greeted by deer, sat crunching acorns beneath trees and sheltering from the heat of the day on England's south coast.

Broadstone in Dorset occupies a large site, spread over 400 acres and intertwined among 100 acres of heathland owned by the local authority.

A book produced by the golf club documents the history of the course, with old photographs revealing very few trees at the 121-year-old club. Those archived images have proven useful as course manager Paul Staples and his

team attempt to restore the heathland characteristics of the course.

"Heathland golf is special because it's a different type of golf," explained Paul. "Parkland golf is all about target golf, where you hit the fairway then you hit the green. Here it's about how the ball is going to bounce. In summer you can't hit a shot to the green; you have to hit it short and let it run in."

When the course was first constructed, there was an old bungalow at the centre, surrounded by a low beech hedge but with views across the entire course. These days the trees are

twice the size of the building, while tens of thousands of other trees have grown up around the site.

It's a legacy repeated all over the country, but one the greenkeepers are trying to reverse.

"We applied for permission to take a reasonable number of trees and the Forestry Commission agreed to the application," said Paul. "We would only ever take out what has been agreed by the club, but it's great to know we have the opportunity to do so!

"We have worked on a number of greens complexes to remove trees

Stone

Read this for:

- Restoring heathland
- Working with a consultant
- Preventing badger damage

An image of the 14th hole at Broadstone, taken in the 1920s

Broadstone

and scrubs to allow more light and air through, to help create drier and healthier surfaces. We would find it very hard to produce the kind of grasses we are sowing into the greens in damp and shady conditions.

Gorse is another species of flora that is present to the heathland setting. The issue at Broadstone is the gorse spreads quickly and entwines with the heather. It grows taller and stronger than the other plants and despite the attractive appearance and smell, is impossible to play out from.

"We have a big issue in that the gorse

has taken over the heather," explained Paul. "On our 13th hole we've done a trial where we've blanketed the gorse with Grazon Pro. We try to leave the heather as much as we can but the gorse is all entwined with it."

Paul added: "On the 7th we have a carry that has gorse in it, which the ladies can't clear. We cut that to ground level and we're letting it reshoot, then we'll spray the gorse off." When Tom Dunn first designed the course at the end of the 19th Century — it would later be redeveloped by Harry Colt — there were very few trees on the site.

Yet when the greenkeepers announced their plans to restore those characteristics by removing a number of trees, they came under some criticism. But by highlighting historic images of how Broadstone used to appear, members quickly changed their opinions.

Similarly, rhododendrons have been removed from around the back of a number of greens. Initially planted to create a colourful backdrop, the extremely limited flowering period wasn't sufficient compensation for the loss of

Continued over



Paul Staples and Matt Clarke

the heathland setting as the flowers suppressed more desirable species.

Paul explained: "Behind the 4th green we've taken all the vegetation off down to the mineral soil and then we've gone through the leaf litter to the black layer, where there is a bank of heather seeds. They can lay dormant in the soil for many years and have now begun to sprout, which has given us good results.

"The important thing is keeping on top of it now. If we just left them, the trees would be back in 10 years.

"My thing is I need to readdress it each year and make sure we get that heather growth as quick as possible. It's pointless doing a job and not keeping on top of it, because 10 years

later it's like, well why did we do it?"

Paul explained how the removal of trees has kept the soil profile in the pH range desired for grass species such as bent. He added: "We're starting to see a reduction in disease because of that.

"On our 13th and 14th greens we have got a very good bent coverage and we're not having much disease on there. But if you go to our 10th green, which is quite wet with a lot of Poa, we are very susceptible to disease.

"We've noticed that the Browntop Bent is more disease tolerant than the current grass species on our greens. We've lost so many products,

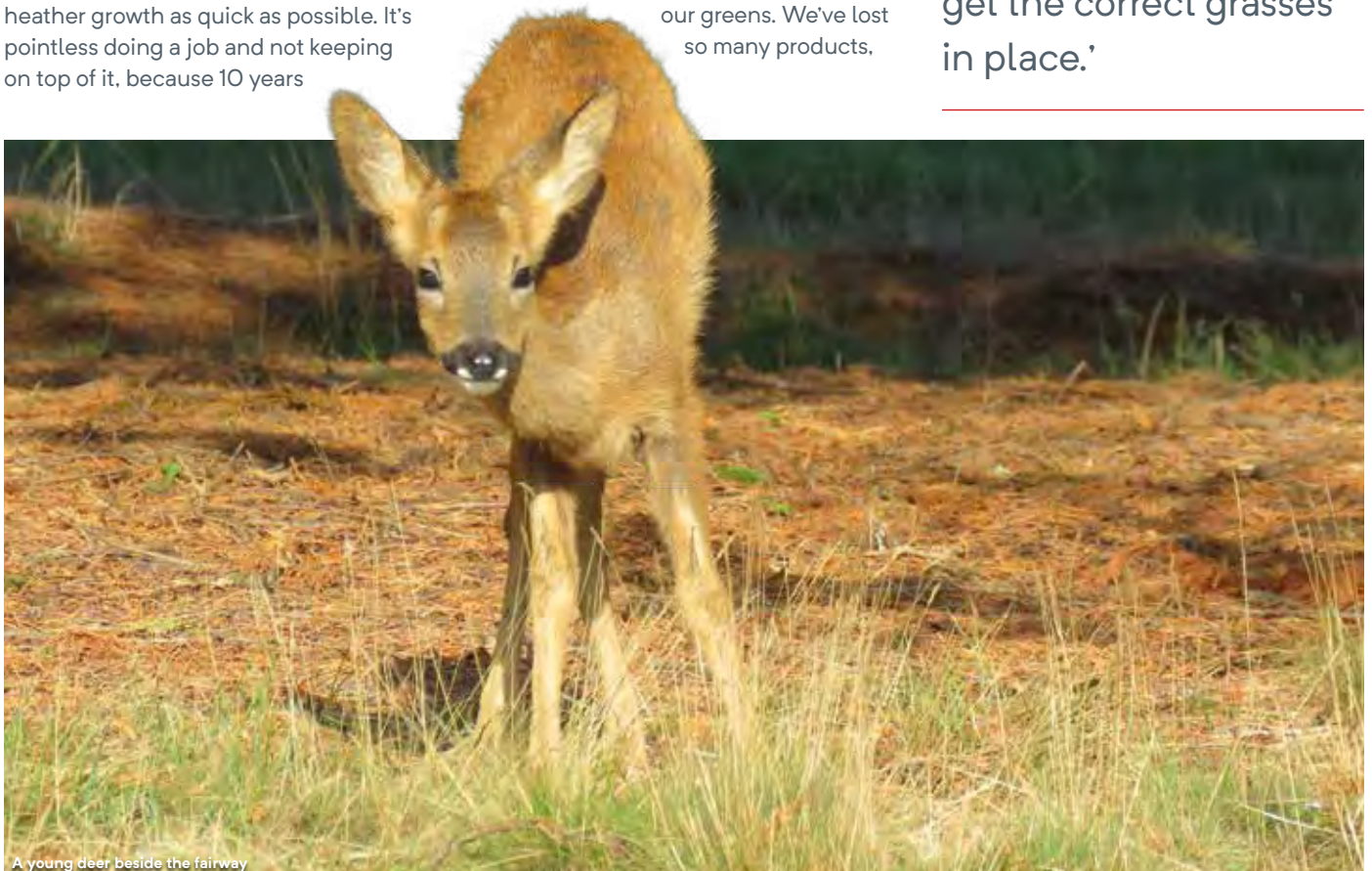
and they're going to keep going, and the most important way for us to help prevent diseases is to get the correct grasses in place."

With an ongoing course drainage project underway and a renovation of the bunkers on 14 holes over a five-year period, there is a lot of work underway at Broadstone.

The club committee has shown a lot of faith in Paul by promoting him from the deputy course manager role, having carried out a full application and interview process alongside external candidates.

However, over a six-month trial period he was able to convince the club management that he was the correct man for the course manager position at the same club where he first played golf as a 10-year-old.

'We've lost so many products, and they're going to keep going, and the most important way for us to help prevent diseases is to get the correct grasses in place.'



A young deer beside the fairway



The first bunker completed by the new team

Part of the role is working alongside course consultant Gordon Irvine and Paul discussed how he has found a situation that can be tricky if both participants don't share a mutual respect.

"Gordon's like Marmite," said Paul. "I get on with him really well, but you have to be straight with him. He's one of those guys who has his opinion, straight down the middle. He wants sustainable greenkeeping and wants certain grasses. I think that's where the industry needs to be heading in my opinion.

"The key to making the relationship work is being honest with each other. I'd rather he told me that he thought my greens weren't good, rather than sending a message in to the committee.

'The key to making the relationship work is being honest with each other'

I'd rather he was honest with me and then we can sort things out."

Sustainability and holistic, rather than chemical, solutions are the key and Paul noted how his fairways coped well during last summer's drought, when other courses struggled.

Continued over



Broadstone

The Team

Paul Staples, course manager
Matt Clarke, deputy course manager
Keith Elsworth, greenkeeper
Shawn Cailles, greenkeeper
Alex Rhodes-Hench, greenkeeper
Samuel Widdicombe, greenkeeper
Shaun Whittle, greenkeeper
Toby Long, trainee greenkeeper
Luke Holmes, trainee greenkeeper

Machinery

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 Trilo Blower



Broadstone



Cutting down the rough enables heather to grow through

"I speak to courses that do things differently and fair play to them, you can do whatever you want," said Paul. "If every football team played the same it would be boring. When I see people cutting as low as 3mm I think to myself, maybe I'm wrong. Our winter height is 5.5mm and we're about to go to 6mm. The recommended height by the STRI is 4mm and this is as low as we would go in the summer, to ensure we establish and strengthen the bents and fescue grasses. While we avoid the extremes, we still get really good pace all year round and the health of the sward is fantastic.

A further attempt to restore the heathland characteristics of the site will see the club's 56 bunkers renovated, with a small number of new ones being installed.

The club had initially housed reservations about allowing Paul to get underway with the project so early into his managerial role, but after working with the consultant to redesign the greenside bunker on the 12th in 2018, as well as building a new 6th tee, the team convinced the club's management that they were capable of taking on the challenge.

"On the 12th, we did a bunker completely naturally and we sourced heather and tall fescue from around the course and it looks phenomenal," said Paul. "You can now see three points of the bunker from the tee, which I feel is enough for golfers to know there's something there."

'On the 12th, we did a bunker completely naturally and we sourced heather and tall fescue from around the course and it looks phenomenal.'

The wildlife at Broadstone is varied, with adders, smooth snakes, roe deer, badgers and many more. The club is aided by the 100-acre preserve at its centre and rare birds such as Dartford warblers can be found.

The lack of chemicals and a population of badgers has the potential to cause tremendous problems as the

predators search for leather jackets and chafer grubs. Interestingly, though, Paul said there has been very little damage from the badgers.

"We've got five or six setts near our 11th tee," he explained. "But they've never touched anything. All we see is little lines where they've taken the long grass for bedding.

"We had a big problem with leather jackets a few years ago, but nothing recently. Last year our 16th fairway looked a little weak and they were under there, but we've had nothing this year. It might be a different story this year when we lay the new turf around the bunkers at 11, the badgers will love that and we may have to put fences around it."

Only time will tell, but Paul and his team have already proved to their club that they are up to the challenge.



Chiffchaff at Broadstone

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Golf Course

2030

What has happened since the blueprint was announced?

Steve Isaac, director of sustainability at the R&A

Golf Course 2030

Read this for:

- The golf industry
- Growing the game
- Teamwork



As we explained in the December issue of *Greenkeeper International*, the main objective of **Golf Course 2030** is for industry stakeholders to agree on a roadmap that secures optimal golf course condition and playability for current and future generations.

The roadmap will address challenges from, and opportunities presented by, the changing climate, resource constraints and regulation. The initiative is being piloted in Great Britain and Ireland through 2018 and 2019. Here, we will consider what has been achieved since a gathering of industry stakeholders in Manchester on 19 September 2018. Twenty-five different organisations, including BIGGA, attended this meeting, at which a number of actions were agreed towards developing the roadmap.

Continued over

Golf Course 2030 industry stakeholders:

The R&A; European Tour; Ladies European Tour; BIGGA; England Golf; Confederation of Golf in Ireland; Scottish Golf; Wales Golf; GCSAI; GCMA; CMAE; UK Golf Federation; PGA; EIGCA; STRI; RIPTA; GEO Foundation; SRUC Elmwood; Myerscough College; Crop Protection Association; Agricultural Engineers Association; Irrigation Consultants; British Society of Plant Breeders; Turfgrass Growers Association; Amenity Forum; University of St Andrews; BASIS; Labosport; FEGGA



Golf Course 2030 Forum at BTME 2019



Measuring playability of golf course turf is one of the priorities for investigation

The September gathering resulted in agreement on priority issues for investigation, how action plans should be the format for co-ordinating work on these issues and a mechanism to manage process.

In this article, the focus will be on the priority issues and action plans.

The industry-agreed priority issues

The industry stakeholders agreed on five priorities for investigation and these are:

- How to make GC2030 relevant and compelling to key audiences such as decision makers at golf facilities and ask how we should engage with golfers.
- Course condition and playability (measuring, benchmarking, setting standards, performance, consistency).
- Resources, focusing on:
 1. alternatives to synthetic chemical plant protection products
 2. labour (recruitment, retention, education, the changing nature of the golf course workplace)
 3. sand/aggregate availability

- Water as a limited resource with too little in dry summers and coping with too much in wet winters
- Coastal change and its impact on golf courses

The first of these was considered critical by the industry stakeholders.

Plenty of well-meaning initiatives have come and gone over the years. Golf Course 2030 needs to deliver and this means producing outcomes that have direct relevance to those managing golf facilities.

The ability to measure course condition and playability is considered of paramount importance if we are going to be able to monitor how playing surfaces perform. We'll also take a look at how successful management practices are in mitigating the challenges of the changing climate, resource constraints and regulation.

Hopefully, the other three are more obvious choices, which are already having an impact on the operation of golf courses.

Action Plans

Action plans were awarded in December 2018 and are due to be delivered by 12 April 2019.

Each action plan will define the issue and the challenges and opportunities it presents. The plan will go on to propose actions to address the challenges and opportunities. These actions may include research (including information gathering) to fill gaps in our knowledge, production of existing best practice guidance, education needs, awareness raising and behaviour change, case studies and demonstration sites.

GEO Foundation were awarded the action plan looking at making GC2030 relevant. The course condition and playability plan was given to Myerscough College. 'Resources' went to SRUC and 'water' to STRI. The R&A will take the lead on producing the action plan for the coastal change issue.

Managing the process

Stakeholders at the September meeting agreed that a small group was needed to oversee the initiative and its processes. Thus, the GC2030 Working Party was formed, comprising representatives from BIGGA, GCSAI, GCMA, PGA, England Golf, Scottish Golf, EIGCA and The R&A. The working party will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

- Review the initial analyses from stakeholders applying for the lead role in the production of action plans
- Appoint stakeholders to take the lead role in the production of action plans
- Review delivered action plans and set goals and targets for implementation



Well educated and respected greenkeepers will be essential to implement sustainable course management

- Produce a 'call for proposals' mechanism
- Consider proposals and produce a priority list of projects deserving support
- Decide if issues have been addressed satisfactorily.

A timeline for action plan implementation

Action plans are due to be delivered in April 2019. These will be reviewed by the working party and revised, if necessary, before being published. A call for proposals will then be made so that recommended actions can be allocated and outcomes delivered.

Tangible results will flow into the industry at different times, dependent on the nature of the activity. Relatively simple tasks such as stakeholder surveys and literature reviews may be delivered in a few months, hopefully by the end of 2019. The compilation of guidance notes may fall within a similar time frame, but any significant research trials could necessitate years of work and funding.

The R&A may well be a source for the seed funding of some of this work, but an important part of action plan

'Communication is going to be the most effective means of ensuring buy-in by all influencers and decision-makers in the sport'

compilation will be the identification of potential funding streams.

Communication efforts

For GC2030 to be really impactful, it must provide effective communication. The industry stakeholders engaged with the initiative have a collective network that should be able to deliver to all key audiences. The communications plan will ensure that:

- All industry stakeholders will be kept informed as we work through the process

- Opportunities will be pursued to promote GC2030 at stakeholder events and through stakeholder publications.
- Stakeholders will be enabled to disseminate GC2030 resources to relevant groups within their networks using their own media channels (websites, social media, etc).
- Government and NGOs will be engaged to raise awareness of the actions golf is undertaking to encourage sustainability and best practice.

These articles in Greenkeeper International are part of the communications effort. Presentations have already been made and others are in the pipeline, including the Forum session at BTME in January. A key element in all of this is for stakeholder organisations to address their own audience, as peer-to-peer communication is going to be the most effective means of ensuring buy-in by all influencers and decision-makers in the sport.

Further updates on GC2030 will be provided to BIGGA members later in the year, once the action plans have been delivered and initial projects instigated.



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average visitor duration, a 13% increase on 2018

208

tweets from @BIGGA Ltd and @BIGGA_BTME during BTME week

6,123

total hours of education

Educate | Exhibit | Evolve

Three spectacular exhibition days came to a close on Thursday 24 January, with BTME 2019 being hailed a success by exhibitors and visitors.

The significantly-altered layout provided an opportunity for exhibitors and the association to engage with visitors to the show in a range of new ways. Among the fun and interactive initiatives were a golf simulator sponsored by Rigby Taylor and

Perennial, Golf Course Construction Live and a New Products Area.

Exhibitors also got in on the act with augmented reality from Syngenta, a journey through a 'turf canopy' with Bayer and an '18 holes of BTME' competition that saw a greenkeeper leave the exhibition £1,000 richer.

The BIGGA Welcome Celebration sponsored by Jacobsen was hosted this year in Harrogate Convention Centre's Main Auditorium and was a fantastic

evening, with one award-winner receiving a standing ovation from the crowd, such was the reaction to his efforts to support the homeless.

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer Jim Croxton said: "BTME was a vibrant, busy three days and I'm delighted to say that on the whole, the changes we implemented for 2019 really paid off.

"The decision to utilise new halls for 2019 was a major one and we have identified some further opportunities

18 inches

the winning golf simulator shot by Darren Cuddihy

154

exhibitors

14%

average increase in stand size

1,183

downloads of the BTME app

2,092,776

steps or 991 miles, the estimated distance walked by BIGGA staff

We look back at the biggest BTME ever

for development, but I had so many conversations with visitors and exhibitors about how bright and engaging the exhibition was. We're really pleased with the feedback and you can rest assured that planning is already well underway for BTME 2020."

Over the next 22 pages you can get a sample of the BTME experience, taking a look at some of the incredible events that took place.

'BTME is massive. It is our touchstone to reality. We're talking to people at the coal face, people whose livelihoods are totally dependent on them delivering the product to golfers, to the customers. For us we look forward to BTME as much as we look forward to the Open.'

Steve Isaac, director of sustainability at The R&A

BIGGA Welcome Celebration

sponsored by Jacobsen

BTME 2019



JACOBSEN
Every Blade Counts.

The BIGGA Welcome Celebration sponsored by Jacobsen capped off an incredible opening day of the exhibition, with television presenter Naga Munchetty again hosting the event.

This year the celebration was held in the Harrogate Convention Centre's Main Auditorium — a spectacular showcase venue that did real credit to the members of the association who were recognised throughout the event.

Naga was presenting at BTME for the fourth year running and said: "All I would like to say to the greenkeepers out there is 'thank you very much'. I'm having a great time playing golf all over the country and that's down to all your hard work, so thank you all."

The celebration began with a few words from Jacobsen's director of international sales, Andre Andrade, who provided an insight into the work of the company, including its involvement in the Ryder Cup at Le Golf National.

Naga then welcomed to the stage Lucas Pierre, head greenkeeper of the Albatros Course, and Equipment Manager Brice Rue.

Lucas is a regular at BTME and said that even at the end of an exhausting year, he wouldn't miss his regular trip to Harrogate.

"The highlight for me is just to come and see old friends and all the BIGGA guys and meet new people," said Lucas. "It's as simple as that: meeting new

people and sharing new experiences. Every year I come here and every year I enjoy it!"

Next up was Craig Boath, recently-appointed links superintendent at The Open 2018 host venue Carnoustie Golf Links. Craig was acknowledged as the first BIGGA member to ever achieve five CPD milestones.

Fifty-five other BIGGA members achieved CPD milestones throughout 2018 and received their certificates at the event.

Four BIGGA members received the association's highest honour, becoming life members. They were Newark Course Manager Graeme Macdonald, Alwoodley Course Manager Philip Taylor, retired Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Course Manager Roger Tydeman and Minchinhampton Course Manager Paul Worster.

Philip offered some advice for the next generation of greenkeepers when he said: "When you go for a job, make sure the job is right for you. Don't compromise because you don't get these things later on. Surround yourself with great people — I've met some great people including my wife and kids."

Paul added to the sentiment when he said: "In the context of my career, it's volunteering that's made the difference. Volunteering has opened up a number of pathways that wouldn't have been there otherwise."

Tim Johnson was invited on stage to recognise his role in the hosting of the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund Golf Day at Penn Golf Club, which raised £5,000 for the charity. Also welcomed on to the stage was Greg Fitzmaurice, course manager at Hunley, and the recently-retired Gordon Moir, who both received R&A Gold Scholar badges.

BIGGA Photography Competition winner Bill Whybrow was presented with a framed print of his image, while Tony Girardi of Rockrimmon Country Club in New Jersey and Andrew Kerr of Surbiton Golf Club in London both received their Master Greenkeeper certificates.

Tony said: "I'm incredibly humbled. I came to BTME and was exposed to BIGGA three years ago. It's a really infectious atmosphere and I really enjoy every time I come, which is what drove me forwards to achieve Master Greenkeeper. All the work the BTME team put in is absolutely fantastic, you should all be proud of your association."

Dennis Mortram was recognised for his efforts in acting as an examiner of Master Greenkeeper since its inception, having recently retired.

Also revealed during the celebration was the winner of the Amenity Forum's Spray Operator of the Year competition, with Keith Gallagher from Complete Weed Control scooping the top prize.

Turn the page to find out about the winners of the BIGGA Awards 2019.



BIGGA's Jim Croxton with Bill Whybrow



Les Howkins MG with Andrew Kerr MG



BIGGA's Jim Croxton with Craig Boath



Les Howkins MG with Anthony Girardi MG



Tim Johnson with Chris Sheehan, BIGGA President 2019

Naga Munchetty

BIGGA Awards

BTME 2019



Jacobsen's Andre Andrade with Jack Percival and BIGGA Chairman Scott Reeves

Homeless support leads to standing ovation for Jack

Outstanding Contribution of the Year sponsored by Jacobsen

Winner: Jack Percival, Chipstead

Runners-up: Amanda Dorans, Dundonald Links; Carl Flavell, Hickleton

Jack Percival received a standing ovation at the BIGGA Awards in recognition of his selfless efforts in helping the homeless.

Chipstead deputy course manager Jack hosted an event in Croydon on 23 December that provided food and warmth for the homeless during Christmas.

The 24-year-old, who was himself homeless for six months when he was 17, put out an appeal on social media for donations, with a huge number from within the golf industry and the wider world responding.

The work was a huge success, but is just one example of Jack's incredible efforts to support the homeless and those less fortunate. Each Christmas he had previously made up sandwiches and soup and travelled via bus to Croydon to give out food to the homeless.

Jack said: "This is unbelievable, I didn't think I could cry in front of hundreds of people, it was just brilliant. I was homeless when I was 17 and I did six months on the street. I turned my life around, met my partner, and this is just the start for me. We did a big feed at Christmas and there was one guy who cried because he got a haircut. I saw a guy dance because he got new shoes and you can't put a price on that."



Amanda Dorans,
Runner up in the
Outstanding
Contribution of the
Year award



Carl Flavell and Jim Croxton

JACOBSEN
Every Blade Counts.

Battling back from bankruptcy at Harleyford

Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year sponsored by Rigby Taylor

Winner: Craig Earnshaw and the team at Harleyford

Runners-up: Matt Wharton CGCS MG and the team at Carolina; Stewart Duff and the team at Gullane

The greenkeeping team at Harleyford Golf Club in Buckinghamshire was recognised for its incredible performance in preparing the course for the EuroPro Tour's Matchroom Sport Championship, just five years after the club was declared bankrupt.

Course Manager Craig Earnshaw said: "This is mad, I can't believe it to be honest. When you look at who I was up against, I am really just a little short for words. I didn't think we would win. The guys on my team were amazing and they're a real credit to the golf club."

The team has not only been commended for its incredible work in preparing the course to a standard worthy of hosting a professional tournament, but the staging of the event didn't go without incident.

When stormy conditions and heavy rain on the eve of the tournament completely washed out the club's bunkers, the team worked through the night to replace the sand, with even Craig's fiancée, Tracy Forth, being enlisted to cut rough and blow fairways.

The tireless efforts of the team paid off and Harleyford has been chosen to host the PGA EuroPro Tour's Matchroom Sport Championship once again in 2019.

RT
r i g b y t a y l o r

Awards 2019



Craig Earnshaw and the team at Harleyford receive their award from Stephen Alderton of Top Green and Chris Clarke of Rigby Taylor



Runner up Matt Wharton CGCS MG with Jim Croxton



Members of the Gullane Golf Club team



Stuart Imeson receiving his award from Adam Butler of Baroness



Aaron Launchbury and Sean McLean of Prince's with Jim Croxton



The Skipton team alongside Jim Croxton

Award for new dad Stuart

Greenkeeping Project of the Year sponsored by Baroness

Winner: Stuart Imeson, Dunstanburgh Castle

Runners-up: Sean McLean and the team at Prince's; Ian Brown and the team at Skipton

Stuart Imeson has rounded off a banner year that saw him become a father for the first time and then be placed in charge of the entire operations at his golf club by winning a BIGGA Award.

In addition to taking on parenting duties and embracing his changing role at the golf club, Stuart has continued to provide excellent educational opportunities for fellow BIGGA members through his incredibly-successful Bunker Camps, the places for which sold out in 2018 as greenkeepers from across Europe came together to take part.

Stuart said: "To be honest I'm a little bit star struck by the whole thing. If you just look at the standard of people that were up for awards, it's an amazing achievement. If you look at my three lads, it's absolutely out of this world to even think we could win something like this."

Bunker camp has been running for five years and was initially envisioned as a way for Stuart's young team — he was only 23 at the time — to interact and network with other likeminded greenkeepers. And more than 250 have now been involved.

The camp sees volunteers head to Dunstanburgh Castle to participate in the construction of revetted bunkers over a two-week period, with educational seminars and workshops taking place alongside the practical greenkeeping.

BARONESS
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WOMEN IN TURFCARE

Golf is about people, not gender. This was the message that rose from the Women in Turfcare event at BTME.

Addressing a crowd of women at a reception that followed the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, BBC presenter and golfing enthusiast Naga Munchetty stated golf and the turf management industry is open to anyone, any gender, and any age. However, she also urged women to stick together and support one another.

Guest speaker Jackie Davidson from the R&A echoed this, asking audience members to turn and share their individual stories in the golfing industry and to look to each other as role models.

She started by thanking BIGGA for organising the event, acknowledging that although it was a small indication of women in the turf industry, it was fantastic to all be together.

Jackie, attending BTME for the second time, noted she was impressed by the sense of community and desire to share and learn from each other, which she said the Women in Turfcare event embodied.

She said: "I'm really passionate about encouraging more women to come into the industry so we need to make some changes because there aren't enough

women feeling this is an industry they can build a career within."

The R&A launched the Women in Golf Charter last May as an initiative to encourage diversity and inclusion. Jackie added, "When we talk about diversity, the default is gender. But gender these days is a term which doesn't necessarily depict male or female. The important thing is to challenge gender, we should accept we all have differences and these differences can lead to wider diversity within your team."

The assistant director of golf development at the R&A, Jackie introduced the idea of diversity of thought rather than the traditional ideas of gender, sexuality and socioeconomic status, "by adding this diversity to your organisation and teams, you will see more creativity and more productivity."

She added attending events such as the BTME's Women in Turfcare reception is a first step towards this change and encouraged golf organisations to sign up the R&A charter.

One woman who has benefited from the change of attitudes in the golf industry is Laura Prior. She joined Symbio five years ago as a regional sales manager. Laura said she used to feel she had to justify and prove herself,

especially to the older generation of greenkeepers, adding: "Going around to meet some people, I think they thought 'what's a blonde woman going to know about turf and science?' Nowadays I'm taken quite seriously in the industry for having the training I do and as a part of this company."

Speaking of her personal experience, Ellie Parry from Forte Marketing told how she joined the turf industry at 21 years old. This year will be Ellie's 17th year at BTME and said it was the people who keep her coming back.

Ellie said: "It's an exceptionally inclusive, welcoming, respectful industry to work in. Right from a young age, I only have positive experiences to share in this sector."

The PR professional pushed the message she would encourage anyone, male or female to come into the industry, adding: "I would say don't make gender an issue. If golf and turf is your passion, if it's in your blood, sparks an interest, floats your boat, makes you want to ask questions, then make it about people, not about gender."

"However, the women in this industry do talk together and network like we are at this event and if you come into this industry, I know you will enjoy it."

BTME 2019



Gemma St John, Chloe Gallagher, Carolyn Hedley (Scottish Golf) and Hazel Frith (All Turf Ltd)

The R&A's Jackie Davidson speaking at the Women in Turfcare event

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ICL Scholars

The third ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship gave five BIGGA members the opportunity to attend the Continue to Learn education programme and BTME thanks to the generosity of BIGGA Education Supporter ICL.

Pictured alongside ICL's Ed Carter are the 2019 ICL Scholars: David Stewart, Walmley; Jorge Manso, Coombe Wood; Blair Shearer, Dunbar; Dan Dooley, Mount Murray; Andrew Brown, Boundary Lakes.



The ICL Scholars 2019 alongside ICL's Ed Carter

BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show sponsored by Bernhard and Company

The annual reception hosted by Bernhard and Company took place at the Majestic Hotel on Wednesday 23 January.

The reception saw the 2019 BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show brought together for the first time, where they were also introduced to the former delegates who had previously benefitted from the support of Bernhard and Company.

The delegates for 2019 are: Scott Aitchison, Royal Dornoch; Craig Boath, Carnoustie; Stefan Carter, The Wentworth Club; Lyle Davidson, The Carrick & Cameron House; Keith Burgon, Eyemouth; Graham Down, Harewood Downs; Craig Earnshaw, Harleyford; Peter McVicar, Hesketh; Tom Pattison, Blyth; Yannick Weber, Cape Kidnappers, New Zealand.



The BIGGA Delegation 2019 alongside Bernhard and Company's Scott Purdy and Renata Mundim



Bernhard's drinks reception



John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme

The six BIGGA members who will be heading to The Players Championship met for the first time on the John Deere stand, as excitement built for the March trip to Ponte Vedra Beach in Florida.

Andy Copeland, South East Region representative from Chesfield Downs, said: "It doesn't feel real at all, I'm absolutely proud as punch to be doing it."

The BIGGA members are: Darren Skinner, Castle Stuart; Jon Gamble, Welshpool; Matthew Shaul, Cleethorpes; Mark Simmons, Kingsdown; Andy Copeland, Chesfield Downs; Niels Sorensen, Randers, Denmark.

Joining the BIGGA members will be a representative from the GCSA in Alex Newenham from Douglas Golf Club in Cork.



The TPC Sawgrass volunteers alongside John Deere's Chris Meacock, the GCSA's Damian McLaverty and Jim Croxton

John Deere Product Launch

John Deere revealed its new machinery to crowds at BTME, the first time the machinery manufacturer had launched products ahead of the Golf Industry Show in the US.

Chris Meacock, Divisional Sales Manager for John Deere, said: "It's special here today, we're launching our new 2750 greens mower, a completely new machine and a completely new design."

The sales manager further explained why exhibiting at the show is a coup for the company and said: "For the first time, we're ahead of our friends across in America."

He believes launching products in the UK first will strengthen the relationship with the customers, allowing dealers to interact with customers during the show.

The precision mowers launched will be available from 2020, featuring the PrecisionCut and E-Cut hybrid triplex.



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Education

Continue to Learn broke records throughout BTME week as BIGGA's Learning and Development team delivered an incredible 6,123 hours of education across the entire programme.

The world-leading education programme quickly got into full flow throughout Sunday and Monday, with events such as the Turf Manager's Conference taking place in the Main Auditorium and attended by 156 delegates.

In total, visitors scanned into sessions 2,275 times, with a large number of delegates attending more than one session.

Head of Member Development Sami Strutt said: "We were absolutely delighted with the numbers of people who attended Continue to Learn. Extending the programme to include the new Deputies' Conference and two forums on ecology and links golf courses has proven to be really successful. Continue to Learn gets bigger every year and we've been delighted with the feedback we've received."



BTME 2019



What did you think?

"It's my first time at C2L working with BIGGA. I'll be honest I was a little bit daunted. I don't play golf and have never played golf so to be coming to BIGGA as a supposed expert in my field talking to a group of people who were experts in their field was a little bit daunting. But it was great and I really enjoyed it."

**Mark Doyle, managing director,
The Method**

What did you think?

"The organisation is really professional and the programme itself is action packed and covers loads of things. I think pretty much from the off, 2016, I was blown away by the numbers of people who were here.

"From our perspective, we were surprised by the level of interest in soil and soil microbiology. We see that replicated in other sectors, but I would say greenkeepers are much more engaged and want to apply some of their technical knowledge down to this level. I guess that would be a result of the level of management these guys are applying on a day-to-day level, and that's reflected in the level of interest and focus and energy they bring to the sessions.

"The level of engagement we've seen every year is brilliant. The first year we were sold out plus another two or three heads, last year we were 20, this year we reduced the numbers to increase the level of interaction, but it's always a great group."



Simon Parfey, managing director of SoilBioLab

THE BIGGA STAND



Stand Talks

A new feature of the BIGGA stand were short talks, designed to give visitors to BTME a greater insight into the services offered by the association.

Head of Member Learning Stuart Green said: "This year we wanted to deliver short bite-sized pieces of education that would help members understand what BIGGA membership can do for their career development.

"The talks varied from what funding you can get for education courses, volunteering opportunities — delivered by Craig Haldane, course manager at The Gleneagles Hotel — to a question and answer session with David Cole of Reesink Turfcare and Danny Patten, winner of the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. All in all, this was a great way for BIGGA to showcase how it can help its members."

Danny took part in a talk on the stand, where he discussed the journey that led to him winning the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year award.

"One of the perks of winning the award is that I get to come to BTME," explained Danny. "It's great to see new machines and what's out there for my golf club. But there's also networking and it's a really great opportunity to meet new people. BIGGA does a great job and I love it. I think BTME is great and as a greenkeeper it's something to look forward to every year."

Member Health and Wellbeing Area

Personal health was a major aspect of the BIGGA stand this year, with representatives from charities discussing how BIGGA members can reduce the risk of skin cancer and damage to hearing. Representatives of Andy's Man Club also took part, raising awareness of mental health and spreading the message that it's good to talk.

While Skcin, the skin cancer charity, has attended the last three BTME's, it was a first appearance at the show for Action on Hearing Loss.

The team brought to the attention of BIGGA attendees the damage that can be caused very quickly if hearing protection isn't worn.

Sandra Welburn explained: "If you're pushing a normal petrol mower, any more than an hour without hearing protection will do irreparable damage to your hearing.

"We're finding that some of the people who come to the stand have already done serious damage to themselves. If you don't wear ear defenders, you're causing damage all the time."

Also on the stand were representatives from Andy's Man Club, the mental health charity that tells men that 'it's OK to talk'. More than 75% of suicides are male, making it the biggest single killer of men under 45.

The charity's Andrew Greenway said: "From an AMC perspective it's been a good opportunity to show what we do. We've spoken to loads of people throughout the show. People have been telling us that greenkeeping is quite an isolated profession and people put their hearing defenders on and they're alone with their thoughts. For those guys to know that somewhere like Andy's Man Club exists and to know that there's people out there is really important to us and the more people that know it's OK to talk, breaking down those barriers and those stigmas to guys, getting out there and talking about how they feel.

"The feedback that we've received has been really good. Lots of positive discussions, we've been rushed off our feet with people wanting to come and find out what we're all about and that's amazing."



Deputies' Conference, Main Auditorium, Tuesday 22 January

Steve Chappell, course manager,
Royal Bled, Slovenia

"I think Continue to Learn is fantastic. It's something that I've seen grown and develop over the last five or six years. For me, without being biased towards the association, it's the best greenkeeping education programme that I've experienced anywhere in the industry, even including outside of Europe, I think it's phenomenal.

"I think the key to its success is it's always very current. There's always a great mix between hot topics that are really relevant to the current industry and the way it's shifting and you also get those recurring themes that underpin the foundation of the industry.

"It's always a really nice mix and there's something for everybody, whether it be course superintendent, general manager, club manager, right down to apprentice greenkeeper; it's a wonderful mix.

"Tomorrow I'm doing a half day workshop on soil microbiology and microscopy and I'm really looking forward to that. I think that side of our profession is going to become more prevalent with the reduction in chemicals et cetera and finding a more holistic or biological way of maintaining soils and it's always great to learn new things."

How do you future-pr

Ecology and Environmental Forum

Changes are happening in the turf industry. Unpredictable weather patterns and regulation adjustments to common place pesticides and fungicides have made it harder than ever for greenkeepers to make the most of their land.

For guest speakers at the BTME Ecology and Environmental Forum sponsored by Aquatrols, one solution is clear: conservation and sustainability. Head of ecology and environment at STRI Group, Bob Taylor, addressed golfers' dedication to the sport, when he asked "why do guys go out at 6am in the morning to play? — is it because they want to be the first out there?"

"It's because they want to hear the dawn chorus, they want to see the mist and they want to enjoy that experience," he clarified.

The biologist, who has over 25 years' experience in golf design planning, asserted that environmental management is key and livelihoods depend on it.

"You can have a rubbish environment no-one wants to come back to or you could strive to make the environment as good as it can be, so people talk about it, come and enjoy golf and return, time after time."

Biologist and technical manager at Maxwell Amenity, John Handley said:

"The first thing you need to be looking after is ecology because that's looking after the whole system. Historically, there's been a 'them and us' scenario — it's been greenkeeping or conservation and actually there's a recognition now that ecology is where the solutions lie."

Greenkeeper for John O'Gaunt and Golf Environment Award winner in 2018, Stephen Thompson motivated greenkeepers and managers to think outside the golf course and to think bigger than just the greens and understand the wildlife around the land.

He explained: "The most important part of a golf course is to look after it for golf. You want nice greens, tees and fairways mown short. But you don't have to cut everything from wall to wall, you can have areas of rough out of play."

Stephen has started organising badger watching events for club members and the general public and has seen a great response with them. He added: "I think the motto at the end of the talk probably sums it up perfectly. A golf course is not just a golf course, it's a conservation dream for birds and other wildlife. If you've got nothing and you're starting from scratch, there'll be a little bit of trial and error. But give it a go and eventually you'll work out what's good for your course."



Steve Chappell



Ecology and Environmental Forum

Proof your golf course?

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This was also reflected by Ian Jelley of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, who said he has noticed a real change in the mentality of golf course operators, which is benefitting conservation efforts around the country.

Ian Jelley: "For anyone who's interested in getting involved with ecology, there are many groups that can provide support and guidance. This doesn't cost anything and if everyone did a little bit collectively, it would make a huge difference."

Ian also urged greenkeepers to involve club members in making decisions about what they'd like to see on the course, suggesting guided tour groups could get more people involved.

"Telling your story is crucial," he explained. "Share your successes with others and years down the line, management like this will be seen as second nature."

"By working around the edges of the course on areas which aren't playing focused, you can make space for wildlife, which is great — not only for the wildlife but it will also enhance visitor experience and often can reduce costs for the course."

Questions could be raised over budgets stretching to ecological approaches, such as bird boxes, trail

cameras and the maintenance of rough and conservation areas, however Ian, Warwickshire's director of living landscapes, said a good place to start is your local wildlife trust, of which there are 46 in the UK, covering every county.

Bob Taylor said greenkeepers should seek to map their environments to tailor what is needed. He explained: "One course might need blue tit boxes, but on another you might find wheatear, owls, field mice. We need to understand what's there to look after it."

Bob, who set up the STRI's Ecology and Environment services in 1989, took a Darwinian approach and added: "By doing all these things, you are future-proofing your course. It's about being part of something where we can provide a platform to shout about all that's good about golf, at a time where it's being pulled apart for being selfish use of the land."

He finished with a prediction only two thirds of golf courses will survive the ongoing changes, with the rest being forced to close. He asked, "The question is, who will that be?"

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Turf Managers' Conference

One of the highlights of the Turf Managers' Conference, hosted by Gareth Jones of Sporting Life, was Dr Pat Vittum, professor of turf entomology at the University of Massachusetts. She spoke about a topic very close to the hearts of greenkeepers when she took a closer look at non-chemical management strategies for turf insects, such as leatherjackets and chafer grubs.

Pat said: "In the States we're finding that the biological approach is the way forwards. If you're able to pay attention to the details with nematodes, particularly the timing, and you water before and after your application, there's no reason why you won't see good results. Then it's a case of getting creative and managing the secondary pests however you can."



Pat Vittum

BTME 2019



What did you think?

"This is my third year in a row presenting. When I first got into it, I was told that people are going to be very resistant to what you're telling them because they really want to use all the pesticides."



But within two hours of talking, even just to a couple of greenkeepers, I realised that people were actually interested about what's going on and really want to learn and actually, I've been to a couple of farming conferences and they're nowhere near as receptive."

Francesca Baylis, PhD student at Royal Holloway, University of London

Perennial golf simulator

Rigby Taylor brought something new to the show for 2019 with a golf simulator, programmed to replicate the second hole on the West course at Wentworth.

BTME attendees were challenged to take three shots at a virtual green, with the chance of winning two tickets to the BMW PGA Championships in September.

Darren Cuddihy, from Sundridge Park Golf club was the winner of the prize, hitting within 18 inches of the pin.

BIGGA's new golf partner, Rigby Taylor hosted the simulator as a means of helping to increase awareness of the support available to those working in horticulture during times of need through the trade charity Perennial.

The charity's Sue Brinsden said: "The simulator has been amazing because Rigby Taylor have sponsored it for us and we couldn't be here without their support. The simulator has been constantly busy and that gives us the opportunity to talk about Perennial and the services we offer. We're really enjoying ourselves and it's been a great show."

Jill Kennedy, wife of former BIGGA President Chris, had a go on the simulator and said: "I did terribly, but I think it's another way for greenkeepers to get involved in a bit of friendly competition and it's another string to the BTME bow. There aren't many things around the show where the guys can step up like that in front of their pals and have a bit of fun."



The golf simulator was a popular feature at BTME 2019



Jill Kennedy

Rigby Taylor golf partnership

Rigby Taylor has announced a major sponsorship with BIGGA to tee off the company's 100th anniversary campaign this year – a two-year sponsorship deal as BIGGA's Golf Partner.

The agreement includes BIGGA's three annual golf tournaments: the National Championship, the Golf Management Trophy and the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund Golf Day.

Rigby Taylor will also be involved in all qualifying matches for each tournament and offer further support through the involvement of its key suppliers.

In addition, where the opportunity exists, the company will provide technical advice on tournament preparation and product support.

Commenting on the announcement, Richard Fry, Rigby Taylor's Marketing Director, said: "Rigby Taylor has a long history of supporting those who work in the golf industry and, as a founding member of BIGGA's Golden Key Education initiative (as was), has always had a close relationship with the association.

"Our sponsorship of the BIGGA golf tournaments is the company's expression of confidence in the industry and a vehicle for gaining closer ties not only with golf course



BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton with Richard Fry of Rigby Taylor

managers and greenkeepers but also their greens committees and other key decision-makers."

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO, added: "I'm thrilled that Rigby Taylor is supporting BIGGA in its golf activities for the next two years. The events are an opportunity to not only have some fun, but competitions such as the Golf Management Trophy also bring together all levels of the golf club structure, helping to build stronger relationships within teams and across barriers. And that's incredibly important to us as an association."

RT
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BIGGA
Golf Partner

President's Lunch

BIGGA President for 2018, Chris Kennedy, was thanked for his dedication to the association throughout the year at a lunch event held on Tuesday 22 January.



Chris Kennedy with Chris Sheehan



Wendy Cole of the R&A



George Barr



Les Howkins MG and Darren Davis



Chris Sheehan, Damien Coleman and Rafael Barajas CGCS



Damen Coleman, Scott Reeves and Stuart Taylor



Chris Kennedy, Jim Croxton and Chris Sheehan

18 holes of BTME

Eighteen stands, located all around BTME's show halls, came together to host a BTME '18 holes of golf' competition.

Participants would have to speak to representatives on each of the 18 stands, in exchange for which they would get a stamp on their scorecard. The winner of the £1,000 top prize was Steve Hiron of Kirtlington, while his colleague Garrett Edwards got the runners-up prize of £400.

"I'm over the moon," said Steve. "We thought it was a wind up by one of our reps! It's a great idea to get people talking. We picked up a few different ideas and spoke to people we perhaps wouldn't have in the first place, so it's been really good."

The other winners of cash prizes were Andrew Greenslade, AMG Golf Course Renovation, and Richard Hitchman, Burford.

The competition was the brainchild of Richard Allen of Ecobunker, who enlisted 17 other companies to take part.

Richard said: "We're delighted with how it's gone and we're definitely going to run it again next year."



Garrett Edwards, Steve Hiron, Richard Allan and Lauren Frazer



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Meet the

At the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, BIGGA President Chris Sheehan stood on stage, surrounded by a large group of his close family, who had all come along to see a little bit more about the association he had been selected to represent.

After roles in the merchant navy and at a canning factory, Chris' brother introduced him to greenkeeping in 1980 and he soon took up a role at West Derby Golf Club, a modest course that sits at the heart of a housing estate on the outskirts of Liverpool.

The club doesn't host European Tour events and you won't find it on the UK Top 100 list, but Chris has spent the past 38 years working his way up the West Derby ladder. Throughout his career, he has shown an unwavering commitment to improving working conditions for greenkeepers in the North West of England and is an outspoken voice for the importance of BIGGA and its ambition to improve standards across

the greenkeeping profession.

What has kept you so heavily involved with the association over the years?

I think greenkeepers are always learning and I've always found that the more knowledge you can gain, the better you can address your members. If that makes you more professional in their eyes, that's what you want. You can always beat these guys with a bit of experience and knowledge.

I'm one of those guys that can't sit back and watch other people doing things, I like to get my hands dirty and help out. When I started in greenkeeping, my brother was involved in the North West Section. He took me along to a couple of golf days and I joined up.

I got involved on the committee because I felt I could help fellow greenkeepers in that way. Then, if I'm involved, I'll give everything to it and I want to see it through to the end.

After having spent your career at West Derby, over the next year you're going to be out and about, travelling the country, representing BIGGA, rather than the golf club. Are you looking forward to that challenge?

Obviously, there's a little bit of trepidation but the club are backing me 100%. The members have all come up to me and congratulated me. They see it as quite big for the club and that does make me take a step back and think, yeah this is big actually. But to me it's just another title, I'm still me, a head greenkeeper, on the committee, I'm just a little higher up on the committee, I suppose.

What are you looking forward to most?

Meeting fellow greenkeepers; I think that's one of the things I've always liked. I think every greenkeeper is the same when they're networking with other greenkeepers, telling them about your problems, trying to resolve issues



Chris Sheehan was joined by his family at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration 2019

president

you may have, realising that every greenkeeper has similar issues. I just find it fascinating. When I first started off you only knew your little circle around your golf club, maybe another club nearby, and then with the advent of social media, all of a sudden, the whole world opened up. I run the North West Facebook page because it's great to talk. People ask for advice and you can find out the answers and then give the replies. I really enjoy that.

When did you find out about being nominated as BIGGA President?

It was a simple phone call, where Jim Croxton said he needed to come along for a chat. I thought, oh what have I done now, I'm in trouble here. We had a cup of tea and he said the National Board has asked him to ask me whether I would like to be president of the association in 2019.

I was gobsmacked and didn't know anything about what was expected of me. It was only after a day or two I realised what a big deal this is for me and my golf club. I haven't had European Tours here or Open championships at the club. I'm just a greenkeeper who has worked his way up to head greenkeeper and does his best for the members here.

You've obviously given a lot back to the association, which is why you've been selected for the presidency. It must be nice to know that hard work has been appreciated?

I was quite thrilled when I was offered the role of president, but then I thought why me? People say 'oh it's because of all the work you've done' but to me it was just something I enjoyed doing. I never sought to get any reward from it, and I don't think that's why other people go on committees. They just want to help and if you can make everyone's job a little easier by influencing the people who are running the golf clubs and the golfing bodies, it becomes well worthwhile.

You've been here nearly 40 years. How do you see the next 40 years at West Derby and the industry in general going?

Not much has changed over the years in the profession, but then, a lot has changed too, if that makes sense. Most of the golf clubs are still trying to survive on lower budgets and I think that can't change unless something drastic happens. I honestly don't know what the answer to that is. I see a lot of golf courses closing and

maybe those golf courses that are left take on the membership and prices can go up because there'll be a lot of demand across fewer golf courses? That'll increase the budget and maybe help the greenkeepers who are left to increase the machinery and staffing levels. With less courses, the quality of those remaining will improve as they get more members and more money becomes available.

But you can rest assured that BIGGA will be here, supporting members, no matter what happens.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 23 January in the Harrogate Convention Centre's Main Auditorium.

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

Changes to the National Board were confirmed at the meeting, with Scott Reeves taking up the position of association chairman, succeeding Les Howkins MG.

Chris Sheehan of West Derby was sworn in as president to succeed Chris Kennedy.

Colin Webber of Portmore was appointed vice president.

Anthony McGeough was appointed Northern Region Director.



Chris Sheehan

R&A Scholars

A conference was hosted for R&A scholars providing a chance to network and learn about changes to the programme.

Gordon Moir, who recently retired as Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews links, highlighted the importance of the scholarship scheme as a great way of identifying passionate individuals who want to progress their career but need access to funding for any advance in education.

He said, "It's a great organisation for networking, to share ideas and discover different things about different parts of the country or even working abroad."

Gordon says there has been an increase in applications to the scholarships and believes this as a result will drive the standard up.



Greg Fitzmaurice, Gordon Moir and Wendy Cole

TurfNet

TurfNet hosted a drinks reception at the Majestic Hotel on Wednesday 23 January.

TurfNet is a United States-based network of superintendents and course professionals and each year brings a delegation across to take part in BTME and Continue to Learn.



Peter McVicar with Jon Kiger of TurfNet



TurfNet Drinks Reception 2019



How regulation is changing the face of BTME

Regulation changes to chemical products have pushed manufacturers to embrace their new approaches to turf management, discovered Abi Leighton during BTME.

John Handley, a biologist and technical manager for Maxwell Amenity said: "We can see regulations are changing and we recognise people require solutions, which for some companies is really difficult. They're supplying plant protection products and they're not really engaging with where the regulations are trying to direct us. These changes are for a really good reason."

He continued "the company uses a bio-rational approach that, by targeting particular organisms in the soil, causes little to no effect on other organisms, people and the environment — encouraging long-term sustainability.

"Chemicals need to be used in a more holistic way, adopting a healthy life-style approach for the turf," explained John. "Nature is complex but we've got to look at nature as a blueprint for the things we want to achieve."

This could be observed at Maxwell Amenity's stand at BTME, where seaweed products were shown at various grades of nutritional value in order to encourage greenkeepers to support products that promote a healthy eco-system.

Colin Mumford, technical support manager at Bayer, explained: "We're here to talk through the development of diseases and how you can best mitigate them from occurring. This means cultural, biological and chemical practices – a fully integrated approach."

He said the regulatory environment has necessitated a change in the

approach to chemistry in disease preventative products. "We've seen the loss of certain active ingredients such as insecticides, fungicides," explained Colin. "The regulatory authorities now require manufacturers to show the minimum level of active ingredient needed to take control of a pathogen."

New advances in chemical products centre on preventative and early curative solutions, whereas older products allowed greenkeepers to apply it at any stage of the disease.

Bayer's upcoming product focuses on nipping disease in the bud to stop it becoming an issue, said Colin, which will avoid the unsightly scarring and interference with playing characteristics.

He added: "We've done a lot of trials over recent years comparing preventative application products to later-stage curative applications and results overwhelmingly show that preventative application is much better in terms of playing conditions, aesthetic appearance and general health of the turf."

Hillary Murphy, from Soil Biology, added his voice to the subject, stating their company has begun releasing salt-free alternatives. He said: "My main advice to greenkeepers is to look how much salt they are applying to greens. If you can reduce salt input, you'll find other products you're using will work a lot better."

He finished: "BTME is a great launching pad for new products and I'd like to thank BIGGA for its constant encouragement to young greenkeepers and for bringing them into the industry, but I'd also like to add that colleges need to start presenting soil and microbial approaches to education."


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New look Bayer Stand for BTME



Bayer's 'turf canopy'

Bayer stood tall with a turf canopy journey that allowed visitors to the stand to make their way through the stages of a microdochium infection.

The stand provided information on what's taking place throughout the life cycle of the disease, which is estimated to be present in 95% of all turfgrasses in the UK.

Neil Pettican, of the Bayer Turf Solutions Team, walked us through the turf canopy concept of the stand and said: "We're inside the turf. There are the disease stages and you can see how the grass canopy changes. The aesthetics and colours are different, so it's not optimal aesthetics.

"We've found that generally there's a good knowledge base within the industry. Ourselves and other companies have been talking about what's happening for some time.

"But you always have new introductions to the industry and young greenkeepers starting out in their career. I've been coming to BTME for many years and you forget that there's someone just starting that journey. It depends on the education, the age level and experience, and it varies. I can walk through here and the greenkeeper will almost be telling their own story with the experience they've had and how they've lived through the disease.

"The idea with the stand is that there's enough information here that someone could come through and learn on their own. Alternatively, we've got plenty of my colleagues on hand to talk people through as well. It can be intimidating, but we were all starting out once and I would say don't be afraid to engage and ask people.

"The good thing about our industry generally is that people are willing to share that information and that knowledge and we're always learning. With advancements in technologies, what was the norm five years ago has changed so we all have to continue educating ourselves."

Augmented reality with Syngenta

Visitors to the Syngenta stand took a virtual reality journey into the life of the chafer grub.

With a supersized chafer grub on the stand, Syngenta was inviting visitors to take a look at the lifecycle of the chafer grub using a dedicated smartphone application.

Similar 'augmented reality' software could also enable turf managers to get all the information they need relating to various chemicals and other products.

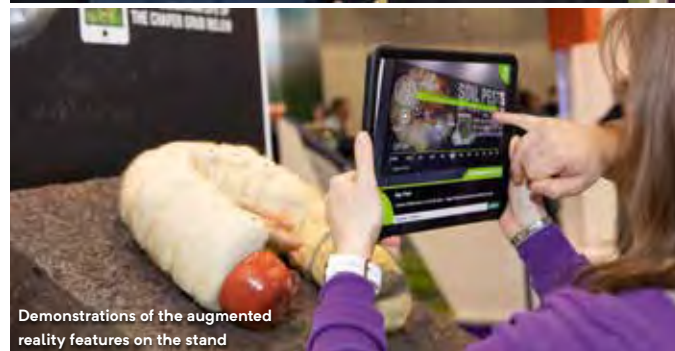
"We've realised that different people want different information in various ways," said Syngenta spokesperson Mark Sanderson. "When we launched Ryder, we got 84% market awareness within its first year and that's absolutely unheard of, no one gets that. We asked 'where did you get that information from?' and people told us they did market research.

"There's this split, almost down the middle of older generation greenkeepers, who want paper, they want magazines and adverts, they go to their distributor and speak to their representatives. But if you come down below the 42, 43-year-olds, it's almost a straight line. For them it's all about social media, their peer group and talking to people on their digital platforms. So we need to be able to cater for all these different people. This is modernising, but it's just giving them the information in the way they can use it all the time."

Each day at BTME, a visitor to the Syngenta stand was pulled out of a random draw, with the prize being a professional light meter. The winners were: David Feeney of Prestwick; Nicholas Meehan of Brampton Park; and Paul Rudkin of Sundridge Park.



David Feeney and Rod Burke, who won a light meter at BTME 2019



Demonstrations of the augmented reality features on the stand



Syngenta's interactive stand

Golf Course Construction Live

BTME 2019 brought greenkeeping in action to the Harrogate Convention Centre, with two course managers building a revetted bunker and a USGA-specification green within the show's halls.

Jack Hetherington of Alnwick Castle and Stuart Imeson of Dunstanburgh Castle undertook the challenge with assistance from other members of the Young Greenkeepers Committee.

Jack said: "It's been really good. We had 40 to 50 people watching us at one point, which was really nerve-racking! We were slowed down because you'd spend 10 minutes putting in turf and then you'd be talking for half an hour, so it wasn't too hard work. It was perfect to be honest."

Jack and Stuart had a busy BTME, with Stuart also speaking at the Links Forum and winning a BIGGA award in recognition of his efforts to educate fellow greenkeepers through the bunker camp project.

@TurfsUp: Tweets at BTME



The moment Jack and Stu realised just how much sand and soil they're needing to shift ready for Golf Course Construction Live at @BIGGA_BTME #turftwitter #BTME #ContinueToLearn #turftalk @BIGGALtd



Jack's delighted to have completed the bunker at @BIGGA_BTME Construction Zone Live. Over to you @StuImeson to get that green finished... #btme

W L Gore & Associates

Bjorn Klafver of W L Gore & Associates was attending BTME after travelling over from Sweden. The stand turned heads with a Haix work boot submerged underwater.

We asked him whether all Swedes keep their shoes underwater...

"Yes of course!" he replied. "It's constantly raining in Sweden anyway!"

"But this is a way to show off, in a fun way, that all the footwear that we have is watertight and waterproof with a full Gore-tex liner."

"We've also got a cross section that shows how you build a boot today and just how many parts there are. We never talk about it, but every boot is hand made and basically for us it also shows how the Gore liner is integrated into the footwear."



Stand Awards

For the first time, visitors to BTME were able to vote for their favourite stands via the BIGGA app.

With prizes divided between small, medium and large stand sizes, the awards were an opportunity for visitors to give feedback to exhibitors about what they enjoyed about the show.

Winning the large stand category was BTME stalwart Baroness, while Aitkens secured the medium-sized stand award.

Richard Aitken Jr said: "We're really happy. There's been a lot of time and effort put in to get the stand right and so we're really pleased to have won an award!"

The winner of the small stand award was Lindum Turf, with a display that showcased each of the various turfgrass species they have on offer.

Lindum Turf's Roger Moore and Laura Bramley designed the stand after taking the opportunity from the expansion of BTME to get a larger exhibition space.

"It's fantastic," said Roger. "As a brand the Lindum brand is an old school brand, we're a tight knit family of staff and we have values, which is something we are very high on and I think customers recognise that."

"We've had people say they enjoyed the stand and then somebody told us yesterday that they were going to put us in for the award. And to be told that, it's great, it's fantastic."



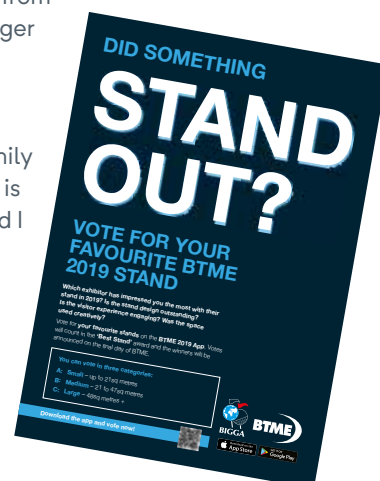
Jim Croxton with Stuart Gray of Baroness



Jim Croxton with Richard Aitken Jr



Jim Croxton with Laura Bramley and Roger Moore of Lindum Turf



ClearWater prizegiving

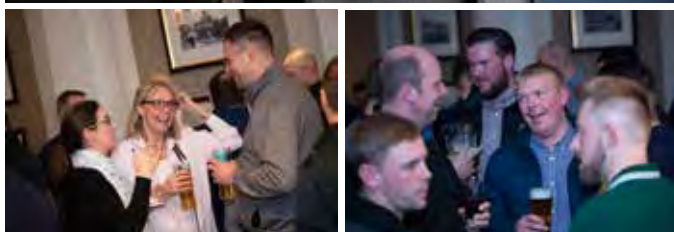
The annual Acumen ClearWater BTME raffle took place on Thursday, with Peter Mellor, grounds manager at the Manchester Grammar School scooping the prize of a ClearWater system.



BIGGA's Scott Reeves and Jim Croxton with Matt Mears of ClearWater

FTMI drinks reception

Hosted by Jacobsen, the FTMI class of 2019 met up with the event's hosts and previous graduates of the education scheme at the Majestic Hotel on Monday 21 January.



Best new product: Festival Plus from Lindum Turf

Fifteen exhibitors showcased their latest wares in the New Products Area at BTME — restricted for products launched between September 2018 and January 2019.

Users of the BTME app were invited to select their favourites and the product to receive the most votes was the perennial ryegrass Festival Plus from Lindum Turf.



Symbio thanked for region support

Symbio celebrated its regional partnership with BIGGA after being awarded South East Region Partner of the Year.

Laura Prior, technical sales manager, said the staff at Symbio were grateful and happy to be acknowledged, adding: "This is great for the team as it means we're recognised as a solid member in the turf industry within soil biology, which is now a hugely respected part of the industry."



BIGGA's Scott Reeves with Laura Bramley and Roger Moore of Lindum Turf

Campey product launch

Campey Turf Care Solutions were another company who revealed new machinery at BTME

Their 2019 presence was Campey's biggest ever stand, due to venue space increasing.

Products launched include machines from Bellonmit Stable, used for landscape sweeping and artificial surface cleaning equipment as well as the Classen Turf Cutter PRO HSC18 Hydro-Drive.

Lee Morgado, product specialist at Campey Turf Care Solutions commented, "We have quite a big presence this year. BTME is probably the best golf show in the UK."

"It's good to catch up with people, network, see old friends and make new ones," he added.

It's about obsessing over the little things, the details no one else sees. It's never tolerating anything less than the best. Perfection is a mindset. And that's worth being proud of.

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Spray

like a champion



Paul Gater, first assistant at Caldy Golf Club, on the Wirral, was a finalist in the Amenity Forum's Sprayer Operator of the Year awards in 2018. Paul gave us some of his top tips to effective spray operation.

Spraying

After 14 years at Caldy, Paul Gater was promoted to First Assistant in 2008, taking on more responsibilities, including all the duties regarding the application of chemical products and fertilisers.

His role is very multi-tasking, not only responsible for the upkeep, running and cleaning of the spray equipment, he also requires knowledge of the weed, pest and diseases he is trying to control – while at the same time developing the best strategy and timing of when to apply the appropriate control and feed products.

Paul said record keeping is one of the most valuable aspects of his job. Having accurate spraying records enable him and Carl Crocher, his course manager, to have a better understanding of what's

happening out on the course.

This data allows Carl and Paul to make informed decisions on the maintenance requirements out on the course. It's important to keep records for traceability, for insurance schemes and for information for emergency services.

The club has invested in a 600-litre tank sprayer and a 50-litre pedestrian walk over machine. During the winter months, Paul uses the pedestrian sprayer in and around the greens areas to reduce compaction.

Keeping the grass plant healthy is key, generally achieved with good greenkeeping practices that include good mowing, feeding and aeration regimes, coupled with a scarification and topdressing programme, where

applicable and dependant on budgets.

Carl explained how he applies intensive wetting agents to help dry the playing surface out and reduce susceptibility to other issues.

Soluble iron is also sprayed on the fairways, which hardens the leaf and helps keep the grass healthy through the cooler months.

With an integrated pest management approach to chafer grub control, if the team spots pecking by birds on the greens, the control measures they use are aeration; overseeding and, at the, an application of Acelepryn.

The net result of the combination of an IPM strategy and effective spraying programme has helped Caldy reduce fungicide spraying each year.



Shrouded booms can mitigate drift on windy sites. Low drift nozzles are another alternative



Chemicals should be securely stored when not in use



Be ready to adapt nozzle choice to the products and target being sprayed, and conditions



Pedestrian sprayers still need to be calibrated, serviced and maintained for good accuracy



Maintain clear, up to date records



Efficient store management, with clear labelling, is an important part of the operator's role.



Nozzle rates



Safe disposal of chemicals and PPE involves collection and safe storage for approved waste contractors.

PAUL'S TOP TIPS

- Shrouds and covers on our sprayer help reduce spray drift.
- From 2016, legislation came into effect that all mounted and pedestrian sprayers must comply with national testing. We make sure the sprayer has an annual MOT through NSTS services to ensure it is working correctly. It also helps minimise breakdowns.
- We have buffer zone areas designated as NO SPRAY ZONES around the course. At Caldy these are long stripes of uncut grass which form a boundary. One sensitive area is the bee hives on site.
- We are also mindful of spraying near water, and only do so as a last resort, using a knapsack.
- I wanted to find out the accurate amount of water that I was putting in the spray tank, so we have bought a flow meter that fits on to the hose pipe. It was especially good if you want to spray a few greens as you can get the right amount of water.
- I use an app on my mobile phone to check my forward speed; this helps me improve my spraying accuracy.
- When I mix iron sulphate I use warm water to speed the dissolving process. Once mixed, use it the same day as the iron will oxidise, losing its efficacy. I pour it through a filter sock as I put it into the sprayer as this minimises blockages.
- Nozzle selection is a key part of accurate application. Appropriate water volume at the required speed to hit the intended target. I tend to use water volume of 300 l/ha for foliar products. For penetrating through the sward I use 600 l/ha for the likes of wetting agents and compost teas. Nozzles are regularly checked for the output and spray pattern; and changed when needed. We tend to keep a spare set nozzle accessible when required.
- All PPE is always kept in a clean zone. Everyone who is assigned to spraying has his or her dedicated own PPE they tend to look after.
- Store container old stock is dated, so it can be used first. Some products are dated on them.
- Chemicals should be securely stored when not in use
- Maintain clear, up to date records
- Signs are put out when spraying to update and inform members.
- Keep PPE separate and know where the first aid kit is — preferably on the sprayer
- For washing down machines, such as sprayers, we have a reed bed system with a reusable water system.
- We use weather apps to check the forecast before any application.

Team Sprayers | Increase application accuracy with a Team Demount Pro



British built and designed for optimum manoeuvrability and application accuracy, the Demount Pro sprayer from Team Sprayers is available in a wide choice of specifications and can be built to fit a range of utility vehicles including: the Jacobsen Truckster XD, Cushman Truck, Toro Workman and John Deere ProGator.

The Demount Pro was re-designed a few years ago to be shorter and more compact, making it easier to spray difficult areas and is available with manual, electric folding or covered boom systems, all with break back pivot points to protect the booms from accidental damage from unseen obstacles. It also features a flattened tank (in sizes 400l to 800l); offering total vision across the back of the machine. The Demount Pro is available with 'ARAG Bravo Auto-rate Control System', an operating and control unit, which combines a display, operating system and control computer in a single housing. The Bravo system accurately calculates the remaining distance and area that can be sprayed with the current tank content and crucially, automatically adjusts the amount of applied product according to the forward speed utility vehicle, therefore

optimising efficiencies and product usage. Team's Managing Director Danny Hubbard said: "We have seen a rise in demand for the Demount Pro with the ARAG Bravo Auto-rate Control System; as greenkeepers prioritise precision application due to the results placement accuracy brings. Robin Greaves, Head Greenkeeper at Marlborough Golf Club, said: We are really pleased with this sprayer purchase and would highly recommend the Team Demount Pro."



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Innov

from Indigrow

Increasing the stress tolerance of turf

Indigrow

‘The Indigrow ImpactPlus range of fine turf fertilisers is providing a novel ‘hybrid’ approach to nutrition.’

The Indigrow ImpactPlus range combines all the benefits of traditional NPK + Fe fertilisers with the additional innovation of pathogen-free organic base material (16% minimum) for soil health and a new natural osmolyte, called Asset.

When stressed, plants naturally produce osmolytes to help combat these environmental stresses. Osmolytes are compounds that assist with osmosis, helping plants retain and absorb more liquid.

Production is favoured under water-deficit or salt stress as the osmolytes provide stress tolerance to cells without interfering in cellular function. Indigrow developed the biostimulant, Asset, which is one of a group of osmolyte compounds and is extracted from a plant species which has naturally occurring high levels.

Asset is used to coat the ImpactPlus fine turf fertilisers, creating a ‘Hybrid nutrition product’ in combination with the high organic base material. The ImpactPlus range has been developed to promote healthy, strong turf via thriving soil flora and fauna due to the additional organic matter and the biostimulant coating enhances the nutrition use efficiency to support the turf in periods of stress.



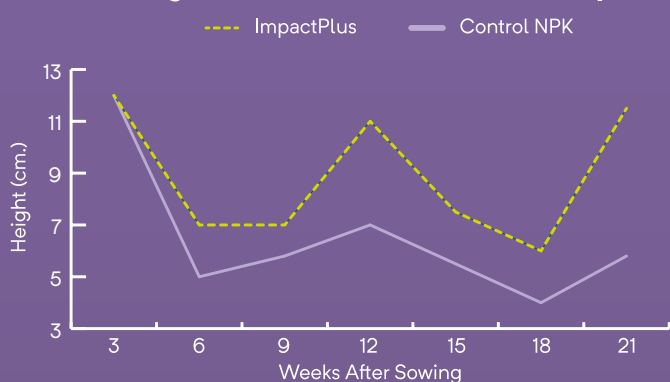
Working together with our partners



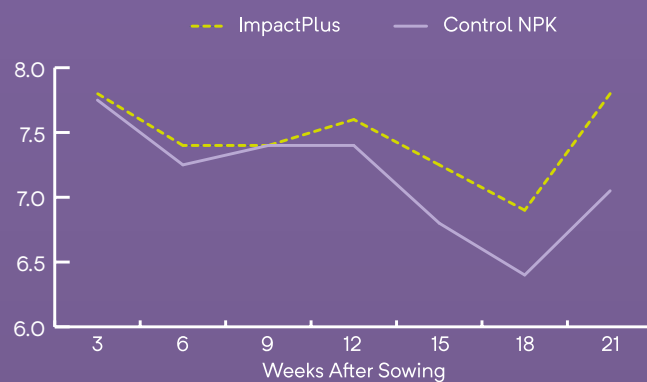
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ImpactPlus vs Control NPK

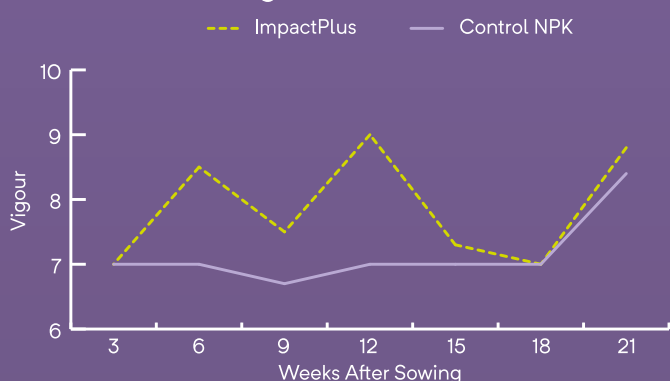
Height (cm.) (Growth & Recovery)



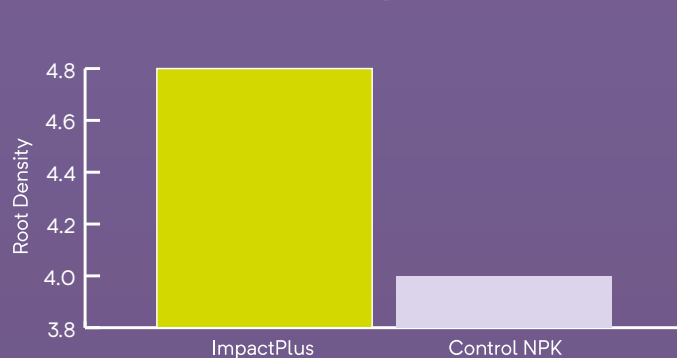
NDVI Readings



Vigour (Scale 1-10)



Root Density at week 21



Comprising a number of different nutrients in a variety of formulations, the ImpactPlus range is highly effective on all soil types with differing base nutrient levels, which are all coated with the Asset biostimulant to help improve turf vigour and root density.

Asset has been proven by independent trials to increase ground cover of newly sown seed, increase

levels of growth and recovery and improve root density, the trial results can be seen in the accompanying graphs. Trials were undertaken using our ImpactPlus products and a control NPK product without the Asset coating.

More information on our trials and the results can be found on the Indigrow website: www.indigrow.com/category/blog

Asset helps overcome plant stress and aids recovery by:

- Osmotic Regulation
- Cell Membrane Protection
- Reduction in Free Radical Production
- Protection of Photosynthetic Biochemical Pathways

Insight

The science of modern greenkeeping

Foliar fungicide on target



Spray techniques could have a huge influence in achieving good surface coverage with all products. It is especially important with contact fungicides, where consistent coverage of the leaf surface is crucial to keep out microscopic disease spores.

Furthermore, spray drift can have a significant effect on the efficacy of any treatment. And with golf and amenity operators under close public scrutiny, there is an important industry initiative to keep spraying clean and on target.

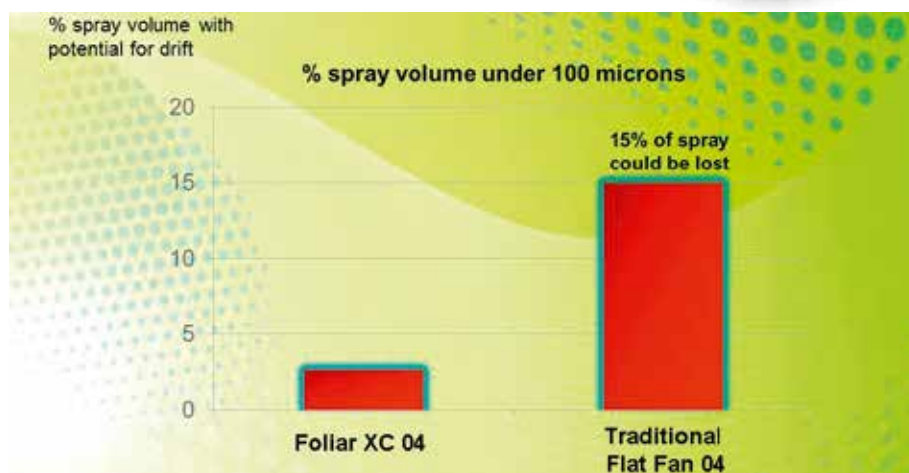
Droplet spectrum of a nozzle makes a significant difference, for both hitting the target and leaf retention and coverage. As a rule, smaller droplets give greater coverage, but are more susceptible to serious issues of drift and loss — trials have shown up to 15% of fine droplets may never even reach the target surface.

Typically larger droplets are far better at hitting the target, but may require help through product formulation and adjuvant use to achieve desired retention on the leaf and achieve good coverage.

Air injection

The advent of air injection technology — as incorporated in Syngenta XC Nozzle Technology — creates a bubble of air in every droplet — which ensures that more spray reaches the target and is retained on the leaf. The step-change advance with XC Nozzles is that they produce up to seven times more droplets per ml, compared to some other ai nozzles, to ensure better coverage.

% Spray Volume with potential for drift



Research into spray patterns has shown a standard O4 flat fan nozzle produces around 15% of sub 100 micron droplets that are most susceptible to drift, compared to less than 3% with a red XC Foliar O4.

Water volume also impacts upon spray quality and leaf coverage; you need sufficient water to help spread the product across the surface. But avoiding too much that will over wet the leaf and break the surface tension, leading to run-off and loss.

Wind issues

Even small changes of a gusty wind during spraying could disrupt the spray pattern along the boom — leading to potential under dosing that could leave areas less protected against infection. Syngenta application research under

'perfect' spraying conditions — with a wind speed averaging 1 metre per second — revealed changes from 0 to 6m/sec over a two-hour application window, and a direct correlation in the efficacy of control in the trial.

Operators can minimise the effects of spray pattern disruption and drift by maintaining the boom height at a consistent 50cm and keeping it level as far as possible; slowing down to minimise turbulence of air behind the sprayer and using low drift nozzles, such as the Syngenta XC Nozzle range.

Boom height

The XC Nozzles are specifically designed for turf application to give greater flexibility in maintaining a consistent spray pattern over uneven ground, often encountered driving up or down slopes or on MacKenzie style greens.

With standard nozzles any deviation from the optimal 50cm boom height will severely impact upon the spray pattern at the surface. Trials have shown

Even coverage - testing coverage at 30cm



Conventional flat fan nozzle

New Syngenta Turf XC Nozzle

that if a boom dips to 30cm, the result with a flat fan nozzle would be over 25% change in spray deposition between the nozzles. With an XC Nozzle the spray pattern remains far more consistent if the boom height drops to 30cm, or rises to 70cm.

STRI research into application techniques with Medallion TL for Microdochium (Fusarium) Patch showed the XC Nozzles performed equally well for disease control at nozzle heights of 30cm and 50cm.

To further enhance coverage with contact fungicides, Syngenta research has shown that an angled spray pattern – designed into the XC Nozzle – can help to counteract the forward movement of the sprayer to give better all-round

coverage of an upright turf leaf.

It may only be a small enhancement on a short turf leaf in a dense green sward, but where the intention is to prevent microscopic spore growth from getting in, every incremental advance helps.

Now, using new ultrafluorogenic detection techniques, Syngenta researchers and dedicated application specialist can better identify how and where spray patterns are deposited on the leaf or surface – to a magnitude of an 11,000-fold enhancement in the visual spectrum. Furthermore, the techniques give almost instantaneous results to assess practical solutions to improve future spray targeting and accuracy.

Syngenta XC
Nozzle options



Formulation matters

Along with the spray physically hitting the leaf, the formulation of any product will influence how it spreads and stays on the surface. In high quality Syngenta formulations, a blend of surfactants and adjuvants are designed, among other functions, to keep the active suspended in the spray mix, to hold the spray on the leaf and to help achieve an even surface coverage.

New Syngenta turf research is evaluating how formulation and tank-mix technology can further help to reduce the risk of spray drift during application, enhance retention and coverage on the leaf and cost-effectively improve results.





Chairman

Robert Patterson
07931 639 548
grassman351@aol.com



**Membership
Services Manager**

John Young
07776 242 120
johnyoung@bigga.co.uk



East

Grant Moran

🐦 @BIGGA_ES
grant@mortonhallgc.
co.uk



Central

Craig Boath

🐦 @CraigBoath
cboath@carnoustie
golflinks.co.uk

Craig was busy celebrating his appointment as links superintendent at Carnoustie and so there are no notes from the section this month. I'm sure you'll join us in wishing Craig all the best in his new role.



North

Neil Sadler

gkneil@sky.com



SW Scotland

Robert Tosh

🐦 @bigga_sws
roberttosh@
btinternet.com

Brian Dixon at Glasgow Gailies has asked if I could send in a bit about the course changes that they are undertaking.

Opening in 1892, Gailies was very much an open, traditional links course with the original plans showing nearly no trees or gorse at all. But over the years many trees have made their way onto the course. Some of these were even planted by Course Manager Brian Dixon as a young apprentice back in 1979.

However, lots of these trees had become damaged by storms and were leaning over quite badly in places, so it was decided to take the course back to its original design and remove a lot of the trees and gorse, with a lot of this work being carried out in house by Brian.

The tree and gorse removal has also revealed huge areas that can now be excavated for sand to be used around the course. Brian has estimated that they have already excavated between 25,000 to 30,000 tons. This will be used for topdressing, shaping and future construction projects.

It really is a fantastic amount of work that has been carried out by Brian and

his team and the pictures really don't do it justice, so with that in mind, the SWS region is hoping to arrange a visit in the near future to see first hand the amazing changes.



West

Scott McTaggart

🐦 @BiggaWest
scottmct@westsection.
gmail.com

Hope everyone who was able to attend BTME had a great time and were able to get the most from it.

If you have never been, I would highly recommend it. There are education sessions, you can keep up with new machinery and it's good to catch up with

fellow greenkeepers.

It's a great way to exchange stories, share best practice and ideas and it's always a brilliant week!

Now that BTME Harrogate week is over for another year, it's time to get stuck into the remaining winter work and prepare for the season ahead — in between the cutting! (It's been a mild winter). It would be good to put some pictures of what projects you've been working on in the news column, so please get in touch.



Northern Ireland

Phillip Snellin

🐦 @PhillipSnellin
philsnellin77@
hotmail.com



Clearing large areas at Glasgow Gailies



Trees were then buried on site at Glasgow Gailies



Shaping the new areas at Glasgow Gailies

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Chairman

Jack Hetherington

07814 553 952 | [@BIGGANorthReg](#)
jack87heff@gmail.com



Membership Services Manager

Sandra Raper

07866 366 966 | [@BIGGANorthReg](#)
sandra@bigga.co.uk



Cleveland Anthony McGeough

amcgeough@
aol.com

A very quiet month, so I'd like to give you another instalment into life at Richmond.

The winter months are usually a time when head greenkeepers and course managers put together their winter renovation plans. I'm no different, except this year I have zero budget to complete what in reality is a full bunker renovation plan and we all know our club expects miracles to happen and it's the greenkeepers job to facilitate it.

So what do I do? I need soil lots of it, subsoil to fill in bunkers and topsoil to finish off the shaping, but I have no money to buy any. I started looking at old winter tees and greens that are now either not fit for purpose or just cause me no end of complaints when I use them.

Decision made, I will recycle redundant materials already on the course. Now I have the soil, I need to remove all the sand out of the bunkers so I can make the alterations without contaminating it.

Over the last three weeks we have spent many a dark morning digging sand out of bunkers with head torches on and Freddie the dog barking encouragement like a cox on an eight man rowing boat!

Shaping complete, now comes the turfing. Again, no budget to buy the good stuff in so it's off to the practice ground with the turf cutter. 100m² at a time so we don't get too fed up of lifting turf. I'm not 1,000m² in and the bunkers are looking great — the practice ground not so much!

So far, the total cost of the work, not including labour, is zero. Estimated cost of the materials if I had the luxury of buying it in would have been around £4,500. I suppose what I'm trying to say is you don't need a massive budget and 20 staff to achieve goals, just a little bit of outside-the-box thinking, a willingness to embrace the challenge.



North West Steve Hemsley

[@BIGGANorthWest](#)
steven.hemsley1@
ntlworld.com

There are congratulations all round! Chris Sheehan was appointed 2019 president of BIGGA and Scott Reeves became chairman of BIGGA for a three-year period.



Freddie the dog watching on as the Richmond team undertakes its bunker renovation project

There was recognition for Tim Johnson and Penn for hosting the 2018 BIGGA Greenkeeper Benevolent Fund Golf Day.

At the Golf Environment Awards it was a great achievement by Paul Walker and the team at Wigan on being finalists in the Operation Pollinator Award. John McLoughlin and his team at Warrington were finalists in the Environmental Golf Course of the Year section and many other members of our section were recognised at the awards ceremony that improves every year.

We also wish Peter McVicar safe travels to America as a Bernhard delegate.

The conference sponsored by ICL and Bathgate Silica Sand is being held at Leyland on 27 February. We hope to see many of you there with bookings being taken by emailing sandra@bigga.co.uk. The cost is £10 each for greenkeeper members and £25 each for trade and non-members.



North East Paul Walton

[@paul_walton20](#)
paul_walton14@hotmail.co.uk



Yorkshire Rob Gee

[@Rob_Grn](#)
robgee.03@
blueyonder.co.uk

Congratulations to Philip Taylor, who received BIGGA Life Membership in

recognition of his contribution to the association and the industry.

This is highlighted by the course walk at Alwoodley on 4 February where places have been booked out pretty much overnight. The education day at Oulton Hall is on 14 February with places available by emailing sandra@bigga.co.uk. The cost for this event is free to greenkeeper members, £15 to trade and non-members.



Sheffield Adrian Keys

[@SheffieldBigga](#)
ajkeys79@hotmail.com

Firstly, congratulations to Gordon Brammah and his team at Hallamshire for being finalists at the Golf Environment Awards for Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year.

Hopefully you have all received our booking form for the 2019 golf days. If not, please get in touch by emailing sheffieldsection@bigga.co.uk and or call 07866 366 966 to request a copy.

We have a seminar day at Rotherham on 13 February from 10am covering chemical legislation, spraying calibrations and unit optimisation so please book a place. Places are limited and free for greenkeeper members, £15 for trade and non-members.



North Wales Eifion Ellis

[@BIGGANorthWales](#)
eifionellis9@gmail.com

Two new jobs to mention this month.

Congratulations go to Marc Wilcock at Conwy and Paul Roberts at Holyhead. Good luck lads.

20 February sees the section's annual conference, entitled 'Back To The Future.' This year we have moved venue with Oswestry hosting. Among the confirmed speakers are ALS's very own Stuart Yarwood MG and Alistair Beggs BSc. Costing just £9, including lunch for greenkeeper members, £15 for trade and non-members.

2019 is the year of communication, so grab a packet of biscuits and pop round to see your neighbouring course for a brew and to chew the fat. You won't regret it. That's all for this month. I'm here for all your news and views.

Thank you
to our section
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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



Chairman

Andrew Laing

07870 188 619 | [@andrewmlaing](https://twitter.com/andrewmlaing)
andrew.laing@gaudet-luce.co.uk



**Membership
Services Manager**

Roger Butler

07525 593 359 | [@BIGGAcentraleng](https://twitter.com/BIGGAcentraleng)
roger@bigga.co.uk



The team from Harleyford was awarded Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year at the BIGGA Awards 2019

ALS, Avoncrop Amenity, Rigby Taylor, AGS, Ernest Doe, Headland Amenity for your sponsorship and for supporting the Mid Anglia Section in 2019.



**East of England
Robert Bemment**

r088emo
@hotmail.com

On 14 December we held our Christmas Texas Scramble at Sleaford sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands.

Third place went to Waltham Windmill, second to team Rigby Taylor and first went to Colliers. Nearest the pin on the 5th went to Liam Chapman (Colliers) with a hole in one – congratulations Liam! Nearest the pin on the 12th hole went to Miles Lynch (Pottergate).

Many thanks to Brian and his staff for the great condition of the course. Thanks also to Sleaford for their great hospitality.

Thanks to our sponsors Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands for the great prize table. Long may their sponsorship continue in the future.

The section dates for education days and golf days will be published shortly.



**Midland
Glen Howard**

howie8447@sky.com



**East Midlands
Paul Fowkes**

[@pazza20001](https://twitter.com/pazza20001)
pazza20001@gmail.com

I hope you are all doing well and your winter projects are getting completed.

I am glad I got to see a few of you at BTME and I am sure you will agree it was a great week with lots of good education and new machinery.

This is where we need your help! We are looking for three venues this year for our spring, autumn and Christmas golf days. The autumn event is traditionally a Texas scramble and AGM, but if you want to put your course forward or want to suggest a course please get in touch with us.

We would like to spread the events around so we can get as many new and old faces involved. It's your section so any ideas are welcome.



**BB&O
Craig Earnshaw**

[@craigdearnshaw](https://twitter.com/craigdearnshaw)
craig@harleyfordgolf.co.uk

The BB&O committee hope the winter is seeing you well.

With good weather in January, I'm sure you're all ahead with your projects and the courses are looking fantastic.

Let's start with the AGM that was held on 15 January. There are two outgoing committee members leaving us this year in Nick Paris and David Lyons. We would very much like to thank them for their work on the committee over the years.

We welcome Mat Aplin onto the committee and all look forward to working together to inject some more educational meetings into the diary. We have four golf days this year: the Toro spring cup, the Lister Wilder summer trophy, the Farol autumn cup and the turkey trot sponsored by ICL and Syngenta. Banks Amenity will again be sponsoring the order of merit with a prize for first place and the top six will qualify for the trade vs greenkeepers trophy.

It's well worth playing the golf days to qualify for the trade vs members as it's a fantastic day to be involved in. If you are interested in hosting an event, please get in contact with myself or Ben Kebby.

In other news congratulations to my apprentice at Harleyford, Aaron Hurdwell, for completing his NVQ level 2. Again, if you have any news for this section, please contact me and I will add it into this section.

Thank you
to our section
sponsors

Section News

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

Email your news to
karl@bigga.co.uk



**Mid Anglia
Darren Mugford**

d.mugford@
rigbytaylor.com

At last the weather seems to be playing ball with some really cold temperatures helping reducing growth and disease outbreaks that were rife over the Christmas period putting an end to a crazy year weatherwise. Hoping for a kinder year weatherwise in 2019.

Here are the results from our Christmas event at John O'Gaunt on 20 December.

Thirteen teams took part on the day and the winning team was Z.Koracevic, M.Whitting, D.Mead and B.Koracevic from Aspley Guise with a score of 52.9.

In 2nd was the trade team of R. Attewell, E.Jack, T.Shinkins and S. Alabaster with a score of 55. In 3rd place was A.Henderson, J.Wilson, R.Groves and D.Goodchild with a score of 55.9.

Nearest the pin on the 2nd was won by H.Guile. Nearest the pin on the 8th was won by D.Goodchild and nearest the pin on the 13th was won by S.Moss.

A big thank you to everybody at John O'Gaunt for their hospitality.

The course was in fantastic condition and we must thank Nigel Broadwith and all the green keeping staff for all the hard work they had put in preparing for the event.

A special thank you once again to Ernest Doe's and Sons for providing the halfway house to keep all golfers fuelled with a selection of snacks and drinks.

Thanks to Banks Amenity, MR Amenity,



Chairman

Steve Lloyd

07578 276 082 | [@GreensMalvern](#)
coursemanager@theworcestershire
golfclub.co.uk



**Membership
Services Manager**

Tracey Walker

07841 948 110 | [@biggaswsw](#)
tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk



**South West
Dave Taylor**

[@DaveTaylor101](#)
dt_taylor101@
hotmail.co.uk



**South Wales
Tom Howells**

[@BIGGASouthWales](#)
howeller_@
hotmail.com



**South Coast
Jim Fancey**

[@biggasouthcoast](#)
hkg@southwickpark-
golfclub.com

We have a great range of speakers for our seminar on 26 February at Salisbury and South Wilts. Please attend if you can.

Our Greenkeepers versus Secretaries match will be held again in May at Bishopswood. Further details to follow. Rob Patrick from Stoneham will be captain for the greenkeeping team. We need a team of 10, so any interest please email the section or myself.

Good luck to Simon Justice on his return to Alresford as course manager and to Lee Payne who takes the reigns at Wellow.

After all the fun and games at BTME, with plenty of contacts being made, it's time to get back to all the hard work!

With the weird weather for this time of year, just needing the snow to hit to make it an all round good year! Plenty of stuff to be getting on with now.

The spring golf day is at Southerndown on 19 February. There will be more info to go out, if it hasn't already.

If you have any information that you want shared, get in touch and I'll include it in next month's section.



**Devon & Cornwall
Neil Rogers**

[@buckaroo14](#)
nrogers@advance
grass.com

Section News

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

Email your news to
karl@bigga.co.uk

Very little to report this month as I think everybody has been making the most of the fine weather that has been happening — by the time you are reading this it will no doubt be raining!

There is no doubt lots of bunker work and other renovations taking place at the moment. If you would care to share it with the other members of the section, please give a me a call and we will get some pictures and feature it in the magazine.

The section welcomes back Kevin James to greenkeeping at Falmouth. You may know Kevin though his job as a trainee assessor for Duchy College.

Our next meeting is at Thurlestone on 21 February, the invite will be coming out soon. In March we are visiting Tehidy Park on the 28th.

Lastly the committee are still looking for people to replace those who resigned at the AGM. Why not join and have a say in how your section is run?

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

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Chairman

Peter Smith
07715 672568
Pds1@btinternet.com.



**Membership
Services Manager**

Clive Osgood
07841 948410
cliveosgood@
yahoo.co.uk



**Membership
Services Manager**

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



**Surrey
Stephen Alabaster**

@JacUKEast
salabaster@tip.
textron.com



**Kent
Darren Burton**

@BIGGAKent
dbawol05
@gmail.com

Great to see so many of you at BTME. I for one really enjoyed my time there and took so many positives and new ideas back to my club.

February is now upon us and so is the cold weather too. It would be nice if our Kent members would post great pictures of what they are up to on our FB page.

Anthony Stockwell's winter education seminars at Hadlow College have already got underway. Make sure you keep up-to-date on the BIGGA website about the events and keep looking out for details via email.

Also this month sees our first BIGGA Educational Partners Day to be held on Wednesday 27 February at Princes.

Details via email have been sent to all Kent members and it will be great to see many people there. Spaces are limited so make sure you've got yours booked.



**East Anglia
Mike Virley**

@BIGGAEastAnglia
mikevirley@sky.com



**Essex
Wayne Wilson**

@essexbigga
wayne@
cmwequipment.co.uk

We hope all that attended Harrogate had a good time and got out of it what they needed.

The next golf event is the South East Region Golf & Dinner Day at the fantastic Walton Heath. Friday 8 March is the date and those wishing to attend need to register with Kerry Phillips to avoid missing out.

Symbio are hosting a Soil Biology and Greenkeeping Seminar at Abridge Golf Club on 5th March. It is a free seminar with lunch included. 4 CPD points will

be awarded. To book your place call Polly Gearing on 01428 685 762 or email her at polly@symbio.co.uk.

We will be having a committee meeting shortly and will be discussing amongst other things a new funding initiative to help pay for education courses. Watch this space.



**London
Kevin O'Neill**

@kevodale76
londonsection@bigga.
co.uk

The new education programme is available.

We have put together a programme of short sessions, lasting two hours, that are free to BIGGA members. Huge thanks to Andy Wight for his help coordinating the programme and the speakers for giving up their time. Details are on the section Facebook page.

As the dry winter continues, many courses are finding extra time to complete winter projects.

One such project has recently been carried out at Northwood, where Course Manager Wes Walker and his team took it upon themselves to reinstate an old bunker and create a naturalised 'sandy waste' area, highlighting the club's long forgotten heathland features and creating an area with increased diversity.

As Wes explained: 'Being inspired by a recent trip to Scotland, I felt we could enhance some natural features and create an eco-system from this new development.'

Continued thanks to Section and Regional sponsors for their support.



**Sussex
Chris Humphrey**

@CTCChrisH
chris@collier-
turf-care.co.uk



Waste area at Northwood

Section News

We want to hear what's been going on around your section so get in touch with your section scribe

Alternatively, email your news to
karl@bigga.co.uk

**Thank you
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Delivering consistent bunker play in demanding weather

Given the varying UK weather, the issue of robust and long-lasting bunker drainage is a challenge for greenkeepers across the country. Whilst a soak-away or adequate piped drainage system should be installed as part of any bunker construction, so too should some form of bunker lining.

Topsport bunker lining avoids the use of chemicals – unlike spray linings. It can be laid in nearly all weather conditions, typically during the quieter playing months or as part of winter course closures.

There is no need for a type-1 aggregate layer, provided the course subgrade is suitable. Given the product's composition, it also presents no risk to either

equipment or the player as the product will not degrade. For clubs on a strict budget, the modified porous aggregate solution is simple enough to apply independently and a 100m² bunker can be lined by a four-man team in just two hours – either directly from the delivery vehicle or from an aggregate hotbox, depending on the level of course access.

One such club which has felt the benefit of the Topsport Bunker Lining is the Nick Faldo-designed Chart Hills, in Kent. Home to plenty of bunkers, including The Anaconda – the longest in Europe, the course's greenkeepers faced a number of historic bunker maintenance issues.

“We suffer significant wash through heavy rain here at Chart Hills and we are also situated on heavy clay. However, the new lining has just improved the bunkers no end,” says Neil Lauder, Golf Course Manager at Chart Hills Golf Club.

“In terms of maintenance, before the lining we were spending probably sixty per cent of our resources on bunker maintenance. We are a high maintenance course and we've got a lot of bunkers, yet the ones that we've used the Topsport Bunker Lining in have proved to be absolutely remarkable, especially when it comes to holding sand on the high faces. We now utilise the same resource and maintain the bunkers to a significantly higher standard of presentation”



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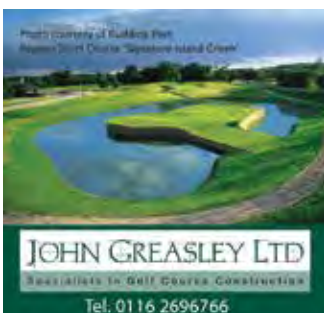
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Assistant Greenkeeper Mendip Golf Club - Somerset

Mendip Golf Club was originally founded in 1908 and was designed by a member of the famous Vardon family.

This private members' club has recently agreed an exciting five-year plan which includes a bunker refurbishment project and two new finishing holes and a covered driving range.

The successful candidate ideally will have a minimum of two years' experience; NVQ level 2, chainsaw & spraying qualifications would be beneficial.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a well-established club with an experienced team of greenkeepers.

A competitive remuneration package will be offered to reflect the position. This is based on the 2019 CGCS guidelines.

For more information on this position please visit our website: www.mendipgolfclub.com

Assistant Greenkeeper Colony Club - Gutenhof, Austria

Colony Club is Looking to employ an Assistant Greenkeeper to work on both of its two golf courses just south of Vienna, Austria. The golf courses are highly recognised as being amongst the best in Austria.

Requirements:

- Candidates must have minimum 4 years' experience and be qualified to minimum NVQ Level 2
- The applicant should be hard working, willing to strive to a high quality and willing to work overtime and weekend shifts as part of a rota.

Benefits:

- Accommodation is provided on site as part of the wage structure, as is uniform and golf membership.
- It is an ongoing full-time contract with paid winter holiday.

The latest start date will be the **4 March 2019**.

Please apply with covering letter and CV to John Jackson at Jackson@colonygolf.com

Seasonal Greenkeeping Sweden 2019



Interactive Management Agency Limited specialises in the recruitment of sports turf professionals. Our client, GML Sport manages an expanding portfolio of top golf courses across the Stockholm and Gothenburg regions of southern Sweden.

What we're looking for

- Greenkeepers of all levels of experience and positions
- Formal qualifications in turf management are beneficial
- Experience with machinery or irrigation are desirable
- Flexibility and positivity a must

- Insight and experience of agronomics in a severe climate
- Competitive rates of pay aligned to experience
- FREE ACCOMMODATION including bills and WIFI
- Work clothing included

Send your CV to info@interactive-management.co.uk or visit www.interactive-management.co.uk.

What we offer

- 6 month contracts starting spring 2019

Seasonal Greenkeeping JCB Golf & Country Club



Seasonal Greenkeeping positions available to join our newly opened golf project in rural Staffordshire. This is an exciting opportunity to be involved with JCB's latest global marketing initiative, enhancing the reputation of excellence across the brand.

What we're looking for

We require a motivated, team player who must have previous experience in Greenkeeping at a recognised venue.

Valued attributes include:

- A hunger to develop themselves within the industry
- Keen eye for detail
- Experience with Creeping Bentgrass putting greens advantageous

- Greenkeeping qualification & PA1, 2 & 6 advantageous

Accommodation available on site along with a generous benefits package, overtime will be readily available. Due to location of accommodation, a full UK driving licence would be desirable but not essential.

Closing date: 18 February 2019

Application to include current CV
Email: callum.wark@jcb.com

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2 Assistant Greenkeepers Royal Porthcawl Golf Club

Situated on the South Wales coast between Cardiff and Swansea, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club is a world-renowned classic links course.

Royal Porthcawl Golf Club is looking to recruit for the above positions.

The ideal candidates will have:

- Minimum 3 years' greenkeeping experience
- NVQ level 2 or equivalent
- Spraying certificates PA1, PA2 & PA6
- Ability to work within a successful team



Reporting to the Course Manager, the greenkeeping team is responsible for delivering a golf course to the highest standards.

Applicants should send a full C.V. and covering letter to:

ian.kinley@royalporthcawl.com or:

Ian Kinley, Course Manager, Royal Porthcawl GC, Rest Bay, Porthcawl, CF36 3UW
www.royalporthcawl.com

Closing date: 18 February 2019

Deputy Course Manager Aldenhams Golf & Country Club

An exciting opportunity has arisen to assist in continuing course improvements made over recent years.

With 27-holes set within mature, tree lined, parkland both courses present a challenge to all levels of golfer. A strong membership base coupled with being a popular choice for golf days makes Aldenhams a busy year-round Club.

You will assist the Course Manager in the presentation of the courses ensuring that they meet standards expected by the Club, enabling effectiveness of the team through planning, communication and training.

You will play a key role in the effective maintenance of machinery, stock control and Health & Safety.

Applications FAO: Marc Winnan
greens@aldenhamsgolfclub.co.uk
Aldenhams Golf & Country Club, Church Lane, Aldenhams WD25 8NN



ALDENHAM
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Seasonal Greenkeepers Trump International Doonbeg

Trump International Doonbeg Golf Links, Ireland is seeking applications for Seasonal Greenkeepers. We have positions available from March — October 2019.

Experience in the use of turfgrass maintenance equipment is required, although full training will be provided. Applicants must have a minimum of two seasons' experience at a golf course and be available to start no later than March 18, 2019.

Benefits include:

- Accommodation (can be provided if required)
- Full training on all aspects of greenkeeping

- Golf privileges and other benefits
- Trump uniform

The right candidates should have:

- 2 years minimum greenkeeping experience
- A greenkeeping qualification or currently training towards one

To apply, please send a one page CV, references and a cover letter to:
Smarr@trumphotels.com



Assistant Greenkeeper Bird Hills Golf Centre



Assistant Greenkeeper required to join our dedicated green staff

Will require minimum 2 year experience with NVQ level 2

Spraying and chainsaw qualifications advantageous but not essential.

Accommodation is not available but the course is conveniently located close to Maidenhead, Wokingham, Windsor, Bracknell and Slough.

A competitive salary will be paid to the successful applicant

Please apply by sending a CV with covering letter to: Ian Richards

Deputy Course Manager
ian.richards@birdhills.co.uk

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To apply, please send a résumé and application letter to: Emma Wilson, HR Manager, Everris Ltd, Boulby Mine, Loftus, Saltburn, Cleveland, TS13 4UZ or email the same to emma.wilson@icl-group.com

Closing date: 28th February 2019

Around the Globe

Janne Lehto | Hirsala Golf, Finland

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

Finland is a long country with huge difference in weather when comparing southern and northern parts.

The most unusual thing would be the daylight! During summer in the north the sun doesn't set for two months. Imagine that growth.

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

It's a woodland/heathland golf course with plenty of pine trees and rocky areas.

How does greenkeeping in Finland vary from the UK?

I think the winter does make the biggest difference.

In the south we have snow cover on average for four months and in the north for almost six months.

What is the best part about living in Finland?

It's the summer. The days are long and sometimes you can even see the sun.

What is the worst?

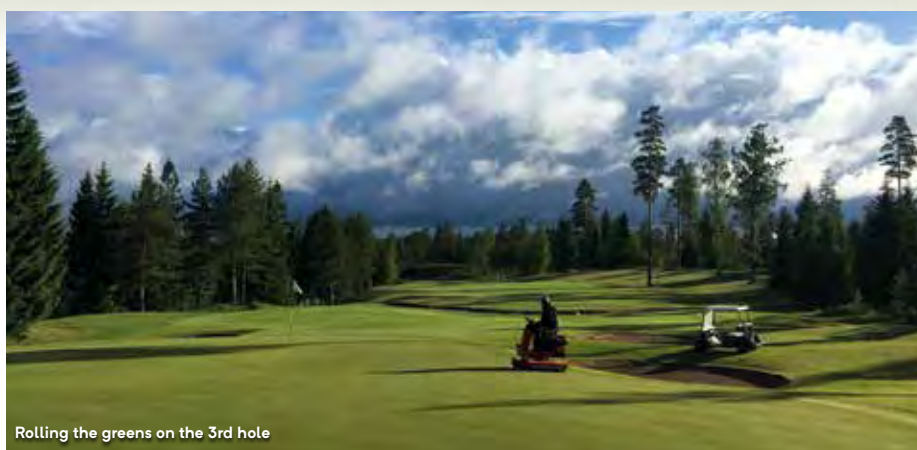
No negatives in living here. It's a paradise.

How does the weather affect your work?

Winters can be harsh, and we need to do a lot of snow and ice removals, especially in the south, to keep the greens alive.

In summer the long daylight hours make the grass grow a lot, so we have to keep the rough mower moving.

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



Rolling the greens on the 3rd hole



The 10th hole



The 18th hole

I don't think you have moose, bears or wolves in the UK? Moose cause a lot of damage on the greens, especially when they are fighting the pin!

What is your club management structure like?

We are a members-owned golf course, but this year we changed the management structure so that ownership and golfing are separated.

There is a small crisis with current members aging and young people are no longer interested in owning a part of golf course. That's why many golf courses are trying something new.

What is the public perception of golf in Finland?

People still think it's an elite sport and we also have some issues with the public

seeing golf courses as an environmental threat. We are working hard to change these misunderstandings though.

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

I am looking forward to connecting to new people in the industry.

I also see BIGGA membership as a great way to help educate myself.

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

Especially when fighting the ice damage, it is essential to keep your greens clear of *Poa annua*.

Our 12-year-old greens are still pure bentgrass and keeping them like that as long as possible is my number one priority for winter management.

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