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Featured Inside

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Woolley Park | Machinery training | Micronutrients



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Welcome



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

It's an odd thing the New Year; in reality the only thing that changes is the final digit in the date, yet it is nearly impossible not to feel that it represents some kind of major shift.

We take stock of what we achieved, or failed to achieve, the previous year and set goals for the next one.

2018 was tough for greenkeepers. The UK weather had an enormous impact on golf courses, political uncertainty caused a lack of consumer confidence and the regulatory environment continues to provide challenges. As always, our members rolled with the punches and generally came out on top.

It is a huge source of pride for all of us who work for BIGGA to see how our members rise to the challenges thrown at them.

Not every challenge was surmountable, of course, and our dedicated team of Membership Services Managers was involved in a record number of mediation

and support cases across the country, at small clubs and large. There are still serious issues with the way many clubs are run and I firmly believe this is the most significant challenge the sport in the UK faces. I'm pleased to say many of the industry's governing bodies share our concerns and will be working together with us to improve matters as a priority.

At this slightly dark and depressing time of year, the light at the end of the tunnel is in Harrogate. We are very much looking forward to BTME, even more so as the changes we have made to the layout of the exhibition mean it will be a new experience for us all. Registrations for the exhibition and the Continue to Learn conference are at an all time high so I'm certain the event will be an outstanding success.

When faced with change, our members always respond with innovative and creative ideas. It has been really fascinating to see how the supply industry has reacted in just the same way towards BTME. Our exhibitors have taken the opportunity that the new show presents to revamp the way they engage with visitors and that's really exciting.

The new layout has also presented us, as organisers, with the opportunity to try some new initiatives. Many are covered in detail in this magazine, but I'd particularly like to draw your attention to Golf Course Construction Live in the Red Zone. A team of BIGGA members will be building a stunning revetted bunker from scratch and also creating a USGA-spec green as the show progresses.

We're also introducing an interactive aspect to proceedings. The New Products Area in the Blue Zone features 15 recently-launched products to the industry and we want you to choose the most innovative. Additionally we are presenting awards to the best exhibition stands and your votes will decide the winners, with voting taking place through the BTME App.

Here's to a happy and prosperous 2019. BIGGA's new year's resolution remains the same as ever — serve our members needs as best we can every day.



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From the Editor

The year we talk?



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

For the majority of the year, being a journalist is a fairly isolated profession.

When you're working on a small team, such as we have at Greenkeeper International, you spend a lot of time talking on the phone or via emails, but very little time actually interacting with others and sharing ideas — especially in winter when there aren't any tournaments to attend! This is, of course, different in larger teams for major publications, but Greenkeeper International is a small operation with a limited budget.

So it is with great anticipation that I look forward to BTME, when the eyes of the turf media all look towards Harrogate. For that week we're welcoming journalists from a wide array of publications — including some from the mainstream golf media — and they've all come to find out what we're up to as an association (both in a governance and a greenkeeping sense). It's a spectacularly exciting time.

The point I'm rather clumsily trying to make is that BTME is exactly the same for us as it is for greenkeepers. Through a dark, cold winter, you go uncomplainingly about your duties, rarely seeing another person. Then all of a sudden, it's bright lights, excitement and BTME.

Mid-winter is a depressing time, let's be honest — there's even an official name for it — and if you're struggling from Seasonal Affective Disorder, those days can seem especially dark and cold. If you're struggling to get out of bed on a morning and dozing through your workdays, it may be that a day or two at BTME is the tonic you're after.

I'd like to endorse the sentiment of Eifion Ellis, one of our Around the Green scribes, who has called for 2019 to be the 'year of communication'. Maybe you're going to BTME — and it's absolutely fantastic if you are — but if you aren't, then let's make a real effort to meet up with those other BIGGA members in your neighbourhood for a cuppa and a biscuit.

Social media isn't social. Sure it's an opportunity to keep in touch with each other, but it isn't the same as meeting face to face, shaking hands and sharing time. Everyone's looking for a New Year's Resolution, so why not make this the year you engage with your Section by attending education events or golf days?

This month's magazine invites you to open your eyes to new possibilities. Whether it's the rather unconventional team at Woolley Park in Yorkshire or the way a course in Switzerland copes after being buried beneath a thick layer of snow for the entire winter. By looking at the different way people do things and considering the opportunities and challenges they face, you may be inspired to rethink your own methods, with the result being you overcome a long-standing problem.

By the way, I couldn't let this opportunity pass without thanking everyone who's listened to The Green Room Sports Turf Podcast in the few weeks since we launched it. This is a brave new world for BIGGA, but we're hoping members really engage with the podcast and support it as much as you do Greenkeeper International.

Happy New Year everyone!

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

In this Issue

Our contributors

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Phil's life has centered around the farm and sports. After successive knee injuries forced his retirement from rugby, he became a world class sport shooter, representing Great Britain on a number of occasions. He's also a third generation farmer, and the combination means he's not your regular golf course owner.



30 Chris Dyke

After 30 years teaching horticulture in Kent and London, Chris moved to Switzerland to appease his Swiss wife, Erika. Chris lives near Zermatt in the Alps and this month spoke to the team at Riederalp, where each year they must recover the course following a winter where almost 10m of snow can be expected to fall.



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A Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalist in 2017 and a Future Turf Managers Initiative graduate in 2018, Michael has thrown himself wholeheartedly into his fledgling career as a greenkeeper. He's also fallen into a few social media pitfalls in that time and recounts some of the lessons he's learned in this month's feature.



48 Alasdair Hood

Alasdair has worked in the Amenity Horticultural and Arboricultural industry for 42 years. He has worked at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh and at Durham County Council. He moved into teaching arboriculture and horticulture and was curator of the University of Dundee Botanic Garden for 20 years.



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Be part of the BMW PGA Support Team 2019

With a packed summer schedule, the shift of one professional golf tournament will inevitably impact another.

So it is that the USPGA Championship's move to May this year nudged The PLAYERS Championship into March and the BMW PGA Championship to September, away from its traditional May date.

The date may have shifted to 19 to 22 September in 2019, but the European Tour and Wentworth's director of golf courses and estates Kenny Mackay have once again requested the assistance of BIGGA members in preparing the course for the event.

BIGGA members who join the volunteer support team are given the opportunity to

get a hands-on experience of course preparation at a major European Tour event. The volunteers will be completely integrated into the Wentworth team and undertake mowing and a range of other activities, in addition to bunker raking duties for the duration of the event.

Dan Clarke is golf courses manager of Wentworth's West course and said that the shift in dates will allow the team to hone the course throughout the summer, making sure it is prepared to the highest standard.

"There will be a totally different feel to the place," said Dan. "The native roughs will grow up and have matured nicely. The rhododendrons won't be flowering, but the

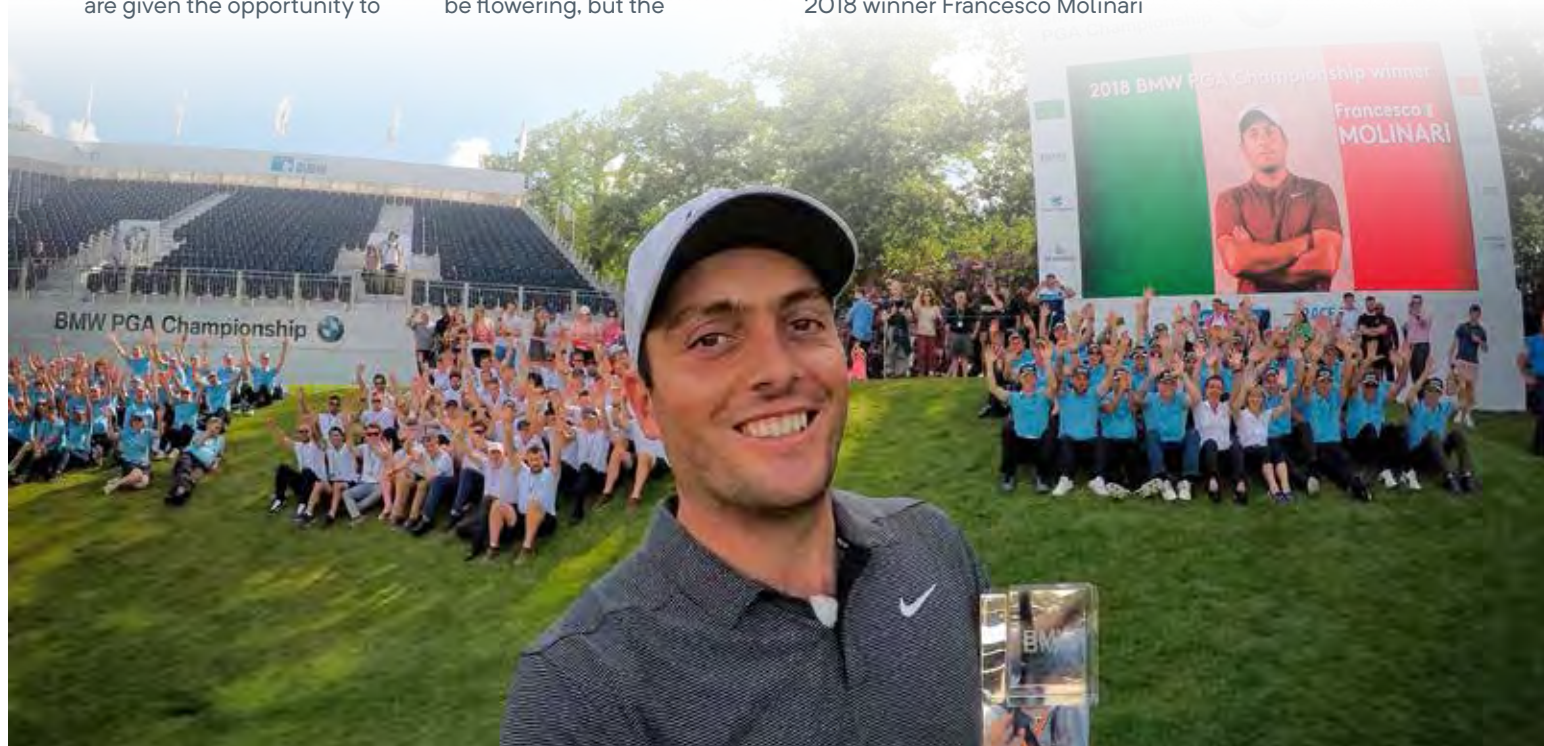
heather will still have a purple haze to it, giving an end-of-summer feel, rather than spring."

Wentworth is familiar with hosting autumn events, with the World Match Play Championship taking place at the Virginia Water club at that time of year.

Opportunities to get involved with the support team are flexible and you can get involved by filling in the application form that is included with your Greenkeeper International magazine pack this month.

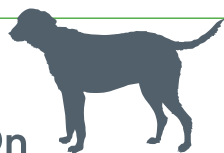
'I love coming back here every year and I just enjoy playing. It's a challenge, it's a test, but I really enjoy the layout and the crowds are always great. I think it's probably the best event of the year.'

2018 winner Francesco Molinari





Dogs On Course



Name: Molli

Age: 12

Owner: Lukas Boettcher

Course: Gut Apeldoer

Breed: Street Mix

Favourite treat: Chewing bones

Favourite spot on the course:

In front of the clubhouse, where she gets the most attention from members and staff.

Naughtiest moment:

When Molli was new on the course, she started barking at the owner. Fortunately for me, he didn't mind having a dog watching over the shed.

My dog is happiest when...

she can run around freely on an empty course.



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

Mike Fullerton



The deputy course manager at Murcar Links retired during December after 42 years' service to the club.

Mike Fullerton retired on his 65th birthday and club captain John Black presented Mike with a printed image of the club in recognition of his achievements.

Club Secretary Carol O'Neill said: "Mike's is an incredible achievement, showing his dedication and enjoyment of the profession."



Homeless support at Christmas



Chipstead deputy course manager Jack Percival is hosting an event on 23 December, providing 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 of people from within the golf industry and the wider world responding.

"The support I've received has been overwhelming. Sometimes I sit on my couch and smile to myself, thinking about the generosity people

have shown."

Jack will be setting up at East Croydon Station and has enlisted help from around 30 volunteers, including kitchen staff from the golf club.

Jack became homeless aged 17 after he was kicked out for getting involved heavily in drugs and associating with the wrong crowd.

He explained how bad things got: "I was doing some sofa surfing, but there's only so many times you can stay on a friend's couch. It got to the point where I was staying with the local alcoholic. If he was sober enough to answer the door, I would have a roof over my head. If not, I would be out on the street."

After six months Jack was taken in by the parents of a friend, who became his foster family. They set him on the right track and found him a job and somewhere

to live. The first job was in a cemetery, but with skills as a mechanic, he spotted a job on a golf course and decided it would make for an interesting challenge.

Four years later and he now works at Chipstead.

Each year he has made up sandwiches and soup and travelled via bus to Croydon to give out food to the homeless.

But he also volunteers with Croydon Nightwatch and a member of staff there encouraged him to seek support on social media.

Since then he has received vanloads of sleeping bags, hygiene essentials and warm clothes, in addition to donations of food.

You can get in contact with Jack on Facebook or via Twitter using [@jackpercival99](https://twitter.com/jackpercival99).

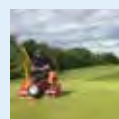


The Green Room

Download BIGGA's new podcast on Spotify and Apple Podcasts

Tweet of the month

@BIGGALtd



Daniel J Dalton
@DJDTurf



So I have a day off work today and what do I spend it doing? Well I've only gone and found out that @BIGGALtd have a #podcast! And boy, do I love a podcast! #golf #greenkeeping #turf

Greenkeepers mourned

The association was saddened to hear of the death of Stocksbridge Head Greenkeeper Jamie Hobson.

Jamie, 48, died suddenly on the morning of Sunday 9 December.

The directors of Stocksbridge Golf Club, in Sheffield, revealed in a Facebook post that Jamie had not been ill prior to his death and passed on their condolences to his family.

The same weekend, former Garforth, Lofthouse and The Leeds (Cobble Hall) greenkeeper Danny Adams died suddenly, aged just 32.

Danny departed for Australia in 2009, settling at Melbourne's



Danny Adams

Riversdale Golf Club, where he was appointed assistant superintendent.

He had attended the Australian version of the Future Turf Managers Initiative in 2017.

Speaking to the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association, Riversdale superintendent Travis Scott said: "Danny was a great guy and he will be sadly missed. The crew are holding up OK, some better than others. We are a pretty tight bunch here and the boys are really looking after each other."



Jamie Hobson, image via Stocksbridge Golf Club

John Greasley



John Greasley (left) at an EIGCA presentation

BIGGA was saddened to hear of the passing of golf course contractor John Greasley at the start of December following a battle with cancer.

John had been involved in the construction industry since the mid 1960s, specialising solely in golf course construction in 1984. Working alongside son, Charlie, the Greasleys completed projects all over Europe, including at Le Touquet in France.

The Greasleys were among the first partners of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects and Executive Officer Julia Green said: "John was a very quiet and polite man, a true gentleman who was well-respected by everyone in the industry.

"He will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this very sad time."

Salary Survey Outcomes



Earlier this year we asked BIGGA members to engage with our latest survey. With nearly 1,000 responses, the results of the survey will go a long way as we seek to learn more about the state of the turf maintenance industry and put pressure on major industry bodies to improve working standards. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey.

There were a number of reasons for conducting the survey:

1. To provide a true understanding of the real situation at the grassroots level
 - a. How do salaries vary from club to club? What are the key drivers — geography, scale of club, turnover, green fee?
 - b. What qualifications do our members hold?
 - c. How many staff do clubs have?
 - d. What facilities do clubs provide?
 - e. What terms and conditions are 'normal'?
2. To give us benchmarking data that we can work with year on year — naturally we hope to see improvements as we work to drive standards
3. To provide the independent Committee for Golf Club Salaries with data to inform their recommendations and, potentially, to enable them to have a more robust set of guidelines for clubs to work with
4. To assist the GTC with their strategy on ensuring greenkeeper education is fit for purpose

Further work is now underway to analyse Deputy and Assistant salaries, to understand geographic fluctuations and to build a salary calculator that will be a valuable tool for the industry.

What did we learn?



The 'average' 18 hole club has **5.5 full time permanent staff** and **one seasonal**



The 'average' 18 hole club course manager has been in post for **12 years** and **3 months** and has a salary of approx. **£37,500 per annum**



45% have a mobile phone paid for by the club



9% of clubs provide accommodation



Only 15% of clubs provide breakfast and/or lunch



Only 39% of clubs provide tea/coffee



21% of clubs provide a vehicle to the course manager



Only 65% of clubs have internet access at the greenkeeping facilities



16% of clubs **are NOT** providing a pension



81% of clubs pay BIGGA membership

What PPE & Uniform

- 2% **don't** provide waterproofs, protective footwear or hearing protection
- 21% **don't** provide sun protection
- 79% **do** provide trousers
- 83% **do** provide sweatshirts or similar
- 87% **do** provide polo shirts or similar





Across the Board

Les Howkins MG | The Richmond Club | BIGGA Chairman

At BTME 2019, Les Howkins MG will step down from his position as BIGGA Chairman. Les is course manager at The Richmond Club in London and has been chairman of the association since 2015. In his final Across the Board column, Les reflects upon his experiences and discusses his hopes for the future of the association.

As I sat writing this just before Christmas 2018, I suddenly had the stark realisation that by the end of January I would be a past chairman and be back to spending lots more time at home, driving the kids mad and getting under my wife's feet.

Speaking of my family, it seems like a great time to publicly thank them for all their support and understanding. My wife Julie has been amazing and completely understanding about the time I have spent away from home. The two little ones have been a little easier to keep happy, but it has cost me a fortune in Toblerone from every airport I have visited! I genuinely couldn't have done the last four years without them.

I'm not quite finished though, and am determined to continue to fulfil my

responsibilities as BIGGA chairman until I properly complete my term at BTME 2019. What a show we have in place; the new layout to the show has been warmly welcomed by the exhibitors and the increase of 25% in available stand space has almost all been snapped up.

The Continue to Learn education programme once again looks superb and offers a wide range of learning opportunities — this year we're offering almost 1,000 additional education places on the programme and I'm delighted to report that bookings are ahead of the same time last year, which is just incredible.

Pre-registration is also going very well and, as a board, we are confident the entire week will be a great success. With the hard work of the team at BIGGA House and the support of the board, the stage is set for the biggest and best BTME ever. All you need to do is pop to Harrogate in mid-January and play your part.

A topic that has become increasingly prevalent throughout my time as chairman has been the importance of social media. Our social feeds over

the last few months have been awash with winter projects and construction work and I never cease to be amazed by the quality of workmanship and the inventiveness that our members demonstrate.

Once again, the weather and its effects seem to differ not only from north to south but from county to county. As always, we just do what we can and get on with it.

Still on the subject of social media, for me Pandora's Box is well and truly open and there is no closing it. If used to share ideas, examples of good practice or ask questions you really need answering in an instant, it can be a fantastic tool.

On the flip side, if used to push political ideals, promote personal agendas, undermine others' positions or generally just be derogatory, then it can be very destructive.

I ask you all to think twice before posting something that could be upsetting or harmful to a fellow greenkeeper. I once sat through a training session about ethics where the main point they wanted us to take home, and one I still remember many years on, was: "If you don't want it on the front page of the newspaper, don't do it." If you're not sure how something may be received, it's always better to err on the side of caution.

Stepping away from that topic and I would like to reflect upon my four years as chairman, which have absolutely flown by. They have been educational, enjoyable and enlightening.

I have had the pleasure of sitting on the National Board at various times with 14 different members. Each and every one of them has given up countless hours to selflessly dedicate themselves to helping run our association for us.

It still saddens me that a minority of people cast aspersions on the



Accepting his own Master Greenkeeper certificate in 2004 alongside Andy Campbell and Sir Michael Bonalack



Les Howkins MG

character of these board members and question their intentions. I have been so impressed with the passion for the industry my board colleagues have shown along with their willingness to give up their time to support the industry. It is getting harder and harder for organisations all across society to attract volunteers to serve, yet our board has increased its commitment during my time involved and has contributed to some outstanding progress.

So, what has BIGGA achieved in the last four years?

For one, a full revamp of the articles of the association, unanimously voted through by the membership. This was the culmination of hundreds of man-hours and many meetings and has enabled the association to be more dynamic and progressive.

The association also has new mission and vision statements that set a clear direction of travel for the foreseeable future and highlights the four key strategic pillars. These are: Supporting our members; Building a stronger sport; Providing leadership; and Excellent organisation.

One addition to the association's ambitions was our desire to educate golfers about the role of our members. This is a difficult area — there are some 4 million active golfers in the UK and it's going to take some time to reach them all — but one that we have taken a multi-faceted approach to.

You'll have seen that we are undertaking direct communication with golfers via information posters and the new *Your Course* magazine and we require your help to share

these as widely as possible. We're also working to reach golfers indirectly by forging partnerships with the Golf Club Managers' Association, the Club Managers' Association of Europe and the PGA to educate other areas of the golf business.

Additionally we have strengthened our commitment to serving members at local level, building a highly committed team of membership services managers who make a difference, daily, to the lives of our members.

Finally, we're doing a huge amount at governance level, working with the industry bodies at all levels of the game. We have made huge strides in this area in recent years. From being on the outside looking in we now very much sit at the table when the governance of the sport is being discussed. As an example BIGGA has been a part of the R&A's Golf Forum for the last three years. This is a high-level gathering of all the stakeholder groups within the golf industry. As Jim remarked at the first of these meetings we attended "it's important to be here as if you're not at the table, you could be on the menu!"

Other major steps forward that we've taken over the past four years include growing BTME to the point where radical change was needed. We have drawn up a clearer Code of Ethics and I'm delighted to say that the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund has continued to grow following its inception during my first year on the board as vice chairman. This fund has made a real difference to many members and their families and long may that continue.

The association is also in a very stable financial position, which puts us in good shape to continue investing in the future of greenkeepers.

I am confident the changes I have listed were needed and will be vital moving forward, but it's important that we don't forget the greenkeepers that worked so hard to form BIGGA back in 1987.

Without them there would be no association and to make sure we remember them in perpetuity, we are working with Life Member Elliot Small to document and log the History of BIGGA.

I couldn't finish this off without one last thank you to our wonderful team of staff at BIGGA House and out on the road. They genuinely work really hard and are so dedicated to the job. I have gotten to know them all over the last few years and I really see them as being very similar to us greenkeepers, with a willing can-do attitude that makes things happen.

Of course, it goes without saying that they are led by our chief executive, Jim Croxton. I have spent many hours with Jim over the last four or five years. We have shared some laughs, we have shared some tense moments and we have faced some difficult decisions, but above all we have worked together for the betterment of this great association.

I would like to thank him for his commitment and devotion to his role. I know he is hugely committed to the greenkeeping industry.

Finally I would like to wish the incoming BIGGA chairman, Scott Reeves, and President, Chris Sheehan, along with all of the Board all the best for 2019 and future years.



Ecology Roundup

James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)

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Grass recycling at West Linton

Ecology

Pretty much the first blog I ever wrote for BIGGA gave suggestions on recycling course waste. With that in mind, and given the time of year, I reckon it's time for an update.

I'm surmising that you all collect some form of leaves and grass clippings, whether it be from a green or tee, and I know a good deal of you collect the clippings from rough management too — the problem arises of what to do with it all.

You can simply tip it in the woodlands and let nature deal with it — this is fine as long as the effluent does not seep into a waterway and contaminate a valuable area such as a water vole or native crayfish habitat. If that happens, then the Environment Agency can cause you no end of problems. So, the best thing to do is recycle it all.

Many courses I advise on are developing small and discreet bays located to the extreme rear of greens and tees for the collection of clippings. These can be made by laying recycled paving stones and then building the edges up with old railway sleepers or other similar timber. You must consider, however, that they should be designed large enough to accept a front-loading tractor (to collect the clippings on a weekly or fortnightly basis during the growing season) as collection by hand is a long and laborious task.

Once collected, the clippings should be taken to a main composting station away from public houses, greenkeeping facilities and the clubhouse as decomposing organic materials usually give off a pungent whiff.

The composting station should be situated on a hard base where the effluent can be returned to the decomposing pile. Ideally, a minimum of three composting piles (about 2m high and 3m wide) should be decomposing at any given time as they will be at different stages of decomposition. Leaves, cardboard or paper need to be added at this point!

By adding cardboard and paper, you will create air gaps as the cardboard and paper break down. Air is imperative to the success of a compost pile as it allows the tiny organisms to multiply quicker and, as a result, creates the desired end product, which is humus. Having said that, a compost pile should be turned over on a regular basis, perhaps twice per month.

It is important to remember that once a single pile is deemed large enough (size mentioned earlier), then do not continue to place organic material on the top, otherwise it will never become mature or stable. By continuously adding fresh organic matter, the microbes, fungi, bacteria and other macro fauna carry on developing heat and the compost pile never actually becomes the finished article.

Composting is a four-stage process beginning with mesophilic (mesophiles, which are bacteria and fungi, invade the organic matter) and then on to thermophilic (bacteria growing in really hot conditions). Then comes maturation (the compost pile begins to mature) and finally stabilisation (the pile is no longer cooking and is ready to use).

It is at the stabilisation stage that our compost is now humus, which is the term used for the microbial decomposition of plant or animal material and is ready to use.

Once at the final stage, then you can begin to use it on your course. How about making a selection of 'winter enviro tees', which is a simple task for competent greenkeepers? Mix your humus with recycled sand from your bunkers at a 3:1 ratio (sand being the dominant factor) and use as a sub and top soil for a winter tee. Fairhaven in Lytham, did just that and won the STRI's Outstanding Project of the Year Award in 2013. You can also mix it with the local topsoil and use it beneath turf, but be aware that you do not use pure humus as it will burn the roots off.

So, you can see, compost is a free source of goodness for your golf course.

The combination of precision, quality and tournament support from Jacobsen made it the only brand we could trust to deliver perfection for The Ryder Cup.

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



OFFICIAL SUPPLIER
2018 RYDER CUP



To arrange a demo on your course, please contact your local dealer.
www.jacobsen.com



YGC

Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Jason Norwood and Jakob Schur, Rudding Park, Matthew Milligan, Oakdale

We recently took part in our first ever course walk at Fulford near York and it was a really interesting experience.

With this being the first course walk any of us had undertaken, we had very little idea of what was in store for the day.

After a quick introduction to Head Greenkeeper Mark Mennell (pictured above with Jason, Jakob and Matthew) and his team in the extremely tidy shed, we went straight out onto the course.

As we approached the first green we were told about the new drainage that had been installed and how the team had communicated with the members about the reasons why the temporary green would be in play throughout the winter season.

Further round the course, we saw a few different winter tactics of note. One was the use of a boundary rope on the turf that wrapped around the green, with preferred lies allowed anywhere within the line.

There was also the voluntary use of mats in the fairway. To try and encourage more golfers to use them, the mats were dotted about along the playing surface and ready for golfers to use if they wanted.

After getting a brief history of when the A64 dual carriageway was built



Another course walk underway at Harrogate

straight through the course and how they were compensated with a tractor, we crossed the bridge that spans the road.

In this area is located a compost heap. Mark explained the benefits of recycling any degradable waste and being able to then use it back on the course on future projects.

We then moved on to discuss their five-year bunker plan, which is just about complete. The team has just about finished reshaping their bunkers to the original design from when the course first opened. They explained the whole process, from the architect's design to laying the last piece of turf.

While the project was successful, it wasn't without its downsides, including the increased amount of maintenance required.

As we moved further around the course, we learned about the tree management work that has taken place in an effort to make the course more heathland in appearance, which is how Fulford was when it originally opened.

With all three of us hoping to undertake our Level 3 qualification in the near future, it was also very interesting to hear from Dylan Mason, who had just finished his project of constructing a new tee. He gave a very detailed talk about the process of what work was done and also spoke about a few hurdles along the way that he had to overcome. The main issue was he had to enlist the rest of the team's help to get the job done to the required level.

After the course walk we had a networking session in the clubhouse, where we got to learn about each other's courses. All in all it was a great day for all those attending and is a great way to learn about other courses in our area.

If the opportunity to attend a course walk arises in your area, we would say get involved. You'll learn a lot more than you may expect!



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 GM

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



Another chemical withdrawal to hit industry in 2019



EU Commission. image by Eoghan O'Lionnain

The active ingredient found in products such as Syngenta's Banner Maxx, Headway and Instrata, will be withdrawn from sale over the coming months.

The EU Commission announced its decision not to renew the approval for the fungicide active ingredient, propiconazole, in a move that was supported by the UK Government.

A spokesperson for Syngenta added: "Syngenta is disappointed by the EU Commission decision and maintains its position that propiconazole does not pose a risk to human health or the environment when used in accordance with current label recommendations."

Syngenta is aiming to launch a new fungicide early in 2019, designed to fill that gap. Based on an innovative class of chemistry, it is already in the regulatory authority registration process, and offers an exciting replacement for propiconazole products. Trials

show it delivers effective and broad spectrum activity, with lower active ingredient loading.

A spokesperson for the Amenity Forum said the loss will "impact significantly" on control in grassland, particularly given the earlier loss of iprodione.

They added: "This revocation in effect means that we have lost a multi-site active ingredient, which further reduces the number of modes of action we have in the amenity sector."

The date set for final sale of products containing the active is 19 June 2019 in the UK, with a use up date of 10 March 2020.

Approval of the active was not renewed as it failed the cut off criteria, given its classification linked to the potential to give rise to groundwater metabolites above permitted levels.

For more information about the loss and introduction of new products, visit the Syngenta team at BTME on stand 428.

Foley United

Foley United, represented by UK distributor ProSport UK, will be demonstrating a grinding combination for a fully-automated workshop on stand 248 in the Red Zone at BTME.

The AccuPro 633 with AccuTouch 3 Control and 673 bedknife grinders will be available to view on the stand.

The professional grinding duo provides cylinder and bedknife grinding and features built-in grinding programmes for an OEM grind.

The latest company to utilise this combination is GGM Groundscare and managing director Chris Gibson said: "We are Baroness dealers and our sales area has recently been extended to cover North and West Yorkshire. In line with the growth of this franchise, we wanted to invest in the right grinders to make sure we had the best support available for customers and that's why we got the Foley AccuPro 633 and 673 bedknife grinders.

"The automation was an important factor because we wanted to provide our customers with consistent and reliable results. We can do that with the pre-set programmes and give them a very accurate idea of how long grinding will take. That's something that benefits us from a planning perspective."

Dennis and SISIS

Dennis and SISIS will be heading to Harrogate and BTME 2019 on their new stand - located in the Red Zone on stand 247.

Visitors to the stand will learn how the SISIS Rotorake TM1000, the Dennis FT510 and the Dennis PRO 34R could have a significant impact on the way they manage turf.

The SISIS Rotorake TM1000 is a tractor-mounted heavy duty scarifier and linear aerator. It includes a collector box and floating unit to follow ground contours.

Dennis claims the PRO 34R is the machine that "everyone was waiting in anticipation for" prior to its launch in November 2018. The 34" rotary mower has been designed to help turf managers achieve an aesthetically pleasing appearance and desired playing surface.

Dennis and SISIS have been regular exhibitors at BTME for a number of years and the company's staff will be available to answer any queries about the machinery.

Rigby Taylor



Rigby Taylor is due to make a major golf industry announcement at BTME to herald the start of a year of celebrations for the company's 100-year anniversary.

While details of the exciting initiative in conjunction with BTME organiser BIGGA will be released at the show, there are a number of additional reasons why greenkeepers should make a bee-line for Rigby Taylor's

expansive stand, located in the Purple Zone at stand 424.

Among these is the launch of a specially-formulated range of early season fertilisers, the 2019 grass seed mixtures and the company's 'Active Planning' turf disease prevention programmes.

In addition, a golf simulator 'nearest the pin' competition will be staged on every day of the show in support of the trade charity Perennial.

Gwynn Davies

Gwynn Davies has returned to the STRI as a turfgrass consultant.

The former course manager at The Mere, Gwynn will support the group's business growth and service development in the UK and overseas markets.

Gwynn said: "I am delighted to be back with the STRI research team and I am looking forward to being able to share my knowledge and experience, supporting the development of sports facilities across the UK.

"I always enjoyed the camaraderie of the team at STRI and I am excited to join them as they enter a new phase of growth and development in 2019."

During his 15 years in the sports turf industry, Gwynn has gained a First-Class Honours degree in Turfgrass Science and received an R&A Scholarship.

Since then, Gwynn has held several senior positions in golf course management



and consultancy, including a previous stint in turfgrass agronomy at the STRI.

STRI group director Lee Penrose said: "Gwynn is an outstanding sports facility consultant who has expert technical knowledge. I have no doubt that Gwynn will hit the ground running and continue to deliver STRI consultancy services to the highest level, as expected by our clients."

TYM tractors

The TYM T393 has been chosen by distributor Reesink Turfcare to headline its TYM tractors stand at BTME.

TYM sales manager Steven Haynes said: "The T393 was the logical choice to bring to BTME. It's done hugely well in the UK in its first year. The fact that it's able to do a lot of the tough stuff as a compact is a major benefit that will appeal to the fine turf market.

"It has already established itself as a comprehensive workhorse, a tractor that can take on the small and big jobs with ease."

Also on stand 202 in Red Zone will be two of 1st Products' rear-mounted tractor attachments: the AERA-Vator and the VC Verti-Cutter. A complementary fit with TYM, this newly-introduced capsule range increases the options customers get from their tractors. Completing the line up is the heavy duty T503.

ICL

ICL has announced that the company will be showcasing a range of new products and innovative technologies at BTME.

Visitors to stand 426 in the Purple Zone can learn about the new and improved range of ProSelect grass seed mixtures. The updated range contains highly-ranked STRI varieties that have been developed through an extensive breeding selection.

Torsion TRT, the turf-repairing tiller perennial ryegrass, and Riptide, the UK's top ranked creeping bent, will be seen at the event.

ICL has been a long-term supporter of BIGGA's Continue to Learn education programme, which runs alongside the exhibition. ICL will be playing a part in this year's schedule with Henry Bechelet and Dr Andy Owen both speaking.

Bayer

As greenkeepers are feeling the pressure of curative fungicides disappearing from the market, Bayer will be showcasing how a preventative and integrated approach can help overcome disease threats at BTME this year.

The Turf Solutions Team will be on stand 260 in the Red Zone to guide visitors through an interactive turf 'canopy' tour.

The novel and innovative tour from Bayer will cover five key areas of an integrated approach to preventative Microdochium patch control and those that complete the tour will be rewarded with a BIGGA CPD point.



New machinery releases

Innovation

JOHN DEERE PRECISIONCUT

John Deere's 6000A Series PrecisionCut fairway machines will be launched at BTME 2019

24.7hp (18.4kW)
diesel engine

8mph (12.9kph)
mowing speed

eHydro transmission
eliminates linkage
between foot pedals and
hydrostatic pump

Operator station includes
CommandArm controls
that move with the seat

TechControl display with
password-protected controls

Range of commands include
mowing, turning and transport
speeds while providing
on-board service diagnostics

Cutting widths of 2.03m (80in)
on the 6080A and 2.54m
(100in) on the 6500A and
6700A with a choice of 46 or
56cm (18 or 22in) QA5 5in or
QA7 7in diameter cutting units
depending on the model

Industry Update

GERMINAL

Germinal will be showcasing its ForeFront Greens grass seed mixture at BTME.

Containing a blend of three top-ranking bentgrass varieties, ForeFront Greens delivers the highest levels of disease and stress resistance.

The mixture is rated for cutting heights down to 3mm and contains 35% Aber Regal (browntop bent), 35% Aber Royal (browntop bent) and 30% 007 DSB (creeping bent).

AberRegal and AberRoyal were both bred at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences at Aberystwyth from parent material originally sourced in the UK.

AQUATROLS

At BTME 2019, Aquatrols will showcase Aquavita technology, a highly refined bio-extraction process that is the first of its kind in the UK market.

Aquatrols is a world leader in the development of cutting edge soil surfactants and other speciality technologies that optimise the interactions between soil, water and plant.

With the introduction of the world's first commercially

available soil wetting agent in 1954, Aquatrols created an entirely new product category to address the world's water problem. In the 64 years since, they have continued to lead, developing technologies to address inefficiencies in the growing environment and maximise grower inputs.

Aquavita has been introduced commercially in the surfactant Zipline.

How will the changes to the rules of golf impact greenkeepers?



The modernised version of the Rules of Golf came into force on 1 January 2019.

Fundamentally, the aims of the modernisation were to make the rules simpler to understand, remove unduly harsh penalties and speed up play where possible.

The major changes include the height from which the ball should be dropped, time allowed to search for a ball and elements to encourage 'ready golf'.

There are, however, a small number of changes that will have an impact on how courses are set up, defined and maintained.

These are detailed on the right.

Further information is available by heading to www.randa.org.uk or by scanning this QR code.



Defining areas

'General area' means all the course except:

- The teeing area
- Bunkers
- Penalty areas
- The putting green

Penalty areas

There is now no such thing as water hazards. Everything is a 'penalty area'. A committee can include certain areas like deep rough, desert or woods, where a penalty drop is preferable to stroke and distance.

Bunkers

Can be defined either as bunkers or as waste areas.

'No Play' areas

A committee can define an area as a No Play area which prohibits

the golfer from playing from this area. Relief from the area can be no penalty or a one shot penalty as determined by the committee.

Putting Green

Golfers can repair the following on a putting green:

- Ball marks, spike marks, scrapes or indentations of equipment or flagstick
- Old hole plugs, turf plugs, seams of cut turf
- Animal tracks or hoof marks
- Embedded objects eg stones, acorns

Golfers can not repair the following on a putting green:

- Aeration holes
- Grooves from verti-cutting
- Natural imperfections
- Wear

Matt is Carolinas president



Matthew Wharton CGCS MG, course superintendent at Carolina Golf Club in Charlotte, NC, has become president of the 1,800-member Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Matt, 50, is one of only a handful of people in the world who is both a Master Greenkeeper and a Certified Golf Course Superintendent from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Matt has been at Carolina since 2005 and said: "It's a humbling

experience to be trusted and selected by your peers, and it's an absolute honour to lead our wonderful association on their behalf. Carolinas GCSA is the largest of all 98 GCSAA Affiliated Chapters and thus I do not take the responsibility lightly.

"We are all excited for the coming year and are looking forward to a fantastic 2019!"

During 2018, Matt oversaw the hosting of the US Mid-Amateur Championship, which Carolina GC shared with Charlotte Country Club.

Wimbledon Park

Historic Wimbledon Park will soon close after members of the club voted to accept a £63.75m offer to purchase the club.

The All England Lawn Tennis Club made the offer to buy out early the lease of the 125-year-old golf club, with each of the 754 members set to profit to the tune of £85,000 as a result of the sale.

During the Wimbledon championships the course had annually been used as a car park, with David Langheim MG and his team accepting the disruption as a part of their working lives.

However, the acquisition of the golf course, which will continue to operate 18 holes until the end of 2021, will now enable the Wimbledon qualifying tournament to be staged on the site.

A spokesperson for the AELTC refuted claims that the site will be used to construct multi-storey car parks or shopping areas.

Speaking to the Guardian, member Martin Sumpton was critical of the sale.

He said: "120 years of playing golf at Wimbledon Park has ended because of greed.

"People wanted to take the money, which is hardly surprising. It is a lot of money."



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Membership

Thank you for support Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund

It was a long-standing ambition of the association to create a benevolent fund for the benefit of its members who may have fallen on hard times.

In January 2014 we finally achieved that goal, with the foundation of the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

Over the past four years the fund has continued to grow and we would like to acknowledge and thank all the BIGGA Regions and Sections for their ongoing support and fundraising through raffles, donations, sponsored events and other initiatives.

We would also like to thank the many individuals who have donated funds, especially at the time of renewing their membership.

Thanks to your valuable support and donations, this fund is making a difference to many people. Among the beneficiaries of the fund so far was Shaun Anderson of Piperdam. Shaun received assistance from the BIGGA Benevolent Fund when he was diagnosed with cancer and underwent chemotherapy.

"BIGGA was amazing in supporting me during my fight against cancer," he explained. "The guys down at BIGGA HQ sorted out the help I received from the Benevolent Fund within just a couple of days. This grant was essential for helping pay the car parking charges and other costs that soon mount up."



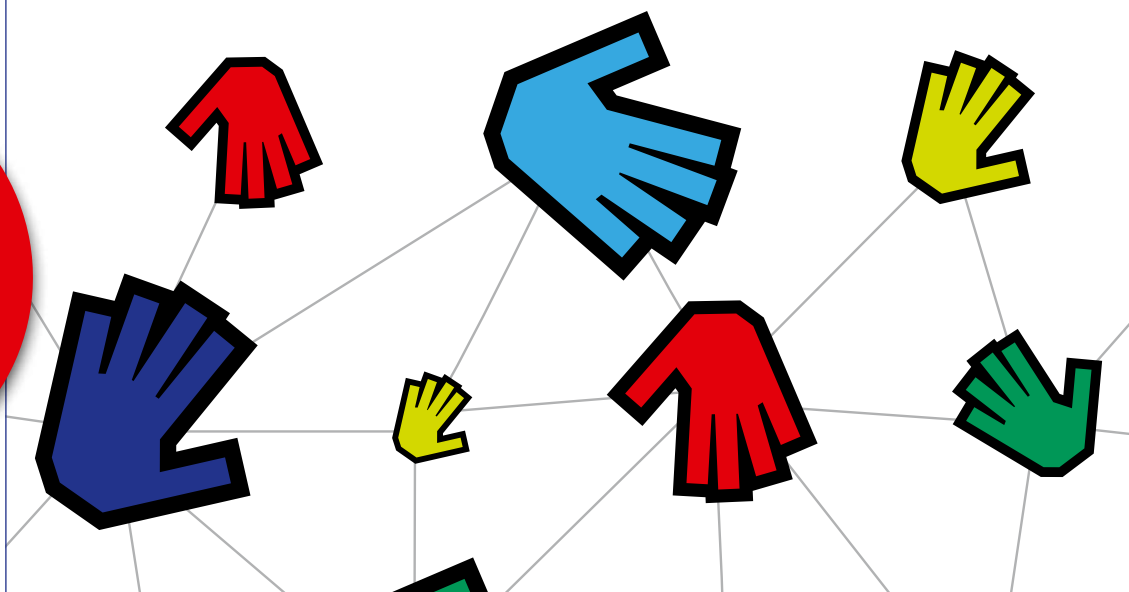
Shaun Anderson, Piperdam

"The support they gave me and my family was priceless."

During 2018, over £5,500 was raised for the charity. This continued support means we have been able to help several members with financial support. Working alongside Perennial, the UK's only charity dedicated to helping people who work in horticulture, we are delighted to be able to continue offering this support to current and past BIGGA members and their dependants.

Inspired by the efforts of BIGGA member Mal Mitchell, who hosted a golf day for the charity in 2017, a second event took place at Penn Golf Club in September last year.

Course Manager Tim Johnson, who himself has a proud history of raising funds and awareness of the BIGGA Benevolent

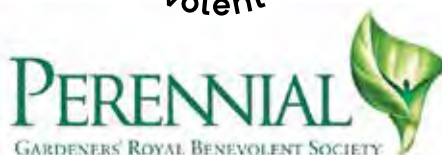


Supporting the BIGGA Benevolent Fund

Fund, hosted the event. A fantastic, fun day was had, with members and commercial partners raising funds and awareness of the charity. Thank you to Tim and Penn Golf Club for hosting the day.

If any member is interested in being a host for a future charity golf day, please contact Tracey Maddison at BIGGA HQ.

For more information on how the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund can help you or to make a donation, call 01347 833 800 or email benevolentfund@bigga.co.uk



Members competed in the Benevolent Fund Golf Day

Welcome new members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Darren McLaughlan, Montrose Links, HGK; **Jamie Aitken**, Renaissance, HGK; **Duncan Stewart**, Balmoral Aberdeenshire, GK; **Stephen Andrew**, Gleneagles, GK; **Frank Glover**, Blairmore & Strone, GK.

Northern

Mike Sadler, Ramside Hall, GK; **Matthew Donkin**, South Moor, AGK; **Richard Royle**, Astbury, DHGK; **Daniel Miles**, Avro, AGK; **David Pritchard**, Berrington Hall, HGK; **Mark Williams**, Formby Hall, A; **Michael Allister**, Formby Hall, DHGK; **Richard Drake**, Formby Hall, GK; **Chris Reid**, Formby Hall, HGK; **Thomas Simpson**, Formby Hall, AGK; **Christopher Ball**, Formby Hall, AGK; **Joseph Mason**, Formby Hall, AGK; **Wesley Henshaw**, KAR UK Ltd (Even Products Ltd), A; **James Smith**, Mellor & Townscliffe, DHGK; **Gareth Oldfield**, Prestwich, DHGK; **Samuel Whitehead**, Prestwich, AGK; **Tom Swarbrick**, Stockport, GK; **Shaun Jowett**, Chesterfield, GK; **Joel Gibbs**, Louth, AGK; **Ashley Lightfoot**, Market Rasen, GK; **Ian Donaldson**, East Riding Yorkshire Council, HGM; **Oliver Durham**, Normanton, GK.

Central England

Derek Major, Deanwood Park, AGK; **Martyn Parrish**, Maxwell Amenity, A; **Jude Boag-Matthews**, Oxford, AGK; **Cameron Wilson**, Kettering, GK; **Matthew Howes**, Kingsthorpe, GK; **Ashley Hammond**, Northampton, GK; **Ian Richards**, Market Rasen, DHGK; **Ian Thompson**, Market Rasen, GK.

South West & South Wales

Mathew Edwards, Looe, HGK; **David Boydens**, Royal Jersey, GK; **Joshua Halliday**, Southwick Park, GK; **David Horrell**, Gloucester, DHGK.

South East

Matthew Bowman, Ely City, A; **Nick Pulford**, Rookery Park, DHGK; **James Dennett**, Royal Norwich, GK; **Ian Rollett**, Royal Norwich, AGK; **Daniel Day**, Mid Herts, App; **Michael Keegan**, Mid Herts, GK; **Mark Whiten**, Orsett, AGK; **Josh Smith**, East Sussex National, AGK; **Daniel Martin**, Royal St George's, AGK; **Harry Hoy**, Enfield, AGK; **Alexander Thackwray**, Richmond Park (Surrey), AGK; **Stephen Wells**, Sandy Lodge, GK; **Mitchell Wood**, Sandy Lodge, AGK; **Steve Croucher**, Malden, FA; **Rylie Henderson**, Royal Automobile Club, GM; **Luke Cole**, Royal Automobile Club, AGK; **Gary Gornall**, Stapleford Abbots, CM; **Harvey Ward**, East Sussex National, FA.

International

Mike Iff, Wylihof; **Sergio Duarte**, Golf de Payerne; **Anthony Doyle**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Anthony Hymas**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Callum Lynch**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Cian O'Connell**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Conor Sexton**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Dale O'Sullivan**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Darren Loftus**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Darren O'Connor**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Dave Mackesy**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Declan Walsh**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Denis Cremin**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Eanna Lynch**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **John McInerney**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Shane Kelleher**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Steve Conroy**, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa; **Dean Pieterse**, St Leon-Rot; **Alex Gremaud**, Wylihof; **Maik Hohl**, Wylihof; **David Edmondson**, The Island; **Joachim Carlsson**, Marks; **Mads Lund Juul Christiansen**, Randers.

Membership

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
GK	Greenkeeper	L	Life Member
AGK	Assistant Greenkeeper	R	Retired Member
		APP	Apprentice



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Free seminars at Continue to Learn



Are you heading to BTME but haven't had the opportunity to book any education seminars?

Perhaps you don't think you can afford to attend Continue to Learn but would like to get a taster of what's involved?

BIGGA's Learning & Development Team has the answer, with a range of **free seminars** taking place in the HCC's Queen's Suite that **don't require pre-booking!**

Check out some of the options below and start your Continue to Learn adventure today.

Lighting your way to better grass

Tuesday, 10am to 10.45am. Presented by Renata Mundim, Bernhard Company

The use of supplementary lights on golf courses as a resource to diminish shade problems. This seminar will show product characteristics, the effects of artificial light on grass and the trials that have been done.

What can you learn?

- Understand what a lighting rig is
- How supplementary lights can be used on a golf course
- What benefits are provided by supplementary lights
- How much light is too much light?

Pesticides and pollinators — what's the buzz?

Tuesday, 11.35am to 12.35pm. Presented by Dr Pat Vittum, University of Massachusetts

Will discuss topics surrounding the impacts of insecticides and fungicides on pollinator health. Will provide ways to promote pollinator health.

What can you learn?

- Understand stresses that impact honey bees and other pollinators
- The impact pesticides have on pollinator health
- Ways to promote pollinator health

Halting the green tide — management of links golf courses within designated sites

Tuesday, 1.05pm to 2.05pm. Presented by Graham Earl, Natural England and Paul Larsen, Royal St George's

Golf courses that reside within sensitive habitats have a statutory obligation to safeguard these areas. A review of research undertaken across three links courses.

What can you learn?

- Identify negative impacts to sensitive sand dune habitats
- Rationalise management techniques to benefit designated areas
- The cost benefit analysis of two different management techniques

Sustainability for future success

Wednesday, 10.15am to 11.15am. Presented by Rowan Rumball, STRI

The impacts of climate changes and the consequences our actions will inevitably have. Course management practices must become resilient to adapt and evolve to climatic extremes.

What can you learn?

- The importance of ecosystem services
- How human interventions impact upon natural cycles
- Prepare for future change on the golf course

The MLSN approach to greenkeeping and how to prepare for it

Wednesday, 11.15 to 12noon. Presented by Andy Church, Ultra Soil Solutions

This seminar will look at the correlation between calcium and sodium levels in the soil and the effectiveness of the MLSN approach. How preparing the soil in advance can improve performance and major cost savings.

What can you learn?

- Take a more educated approach to nutrient management
- Achieve major cost savings
- Learn from the experiences of leading greenkeepers
- Take advantage of techniques used in other similar industries

What does success look like?

Wednesday, 11.35am to 12.35pm Presented by Lee Strutt MG CGCS and Matthew Wharton CGCS MG

The golf course maintenance industry is facing a number of key challenges, leading to higher stress levels. Two experienced course managers will share their experiences and.

What can you learn?

- Recognise workplace stresses and the causes
- Methods that will aid coping with workplace stress
- Achieve a better balanced work and home life
- What success really looks like

A greener golf course 'from field to fairway'

Wednesday, 1.45pm to 2.30pm. Presented by Richard Owens, Tillers Turf

Taking a look behind the scenes of commercial golf production from seed selection right through to turf specification and harvest logistics.

What can you learn?

- Challenges faced in producing and delivering turf
- Turf specification and installation
- Ecological projects and how your course can contribute to scientific research

Use of photography and video footage to improve golf course management and communication

Wednesday, 2.25pm to 3.25pm Presented by Dr Tom Young and Daniel Dean, STRI

How greenkeepers can utilise photography and video to improve turfgrass management and communicate with members and committees.

What can you learn?

- Better composition of images
- Assess and select appropriate photography techniques for given scenarios
- Using photography and video to communicate with club owners and members
- Using photographs and video as a visual record keeping tool



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

Adam Moss, The Henley; David Thompson, Hexham; David Warner, Woking; Eoin Riddell, Royal Dornoch; Gordon McKie, St Andrews Links Trust; Gordon Moir, Retired; Graeme Gallimore, Launceston; James Moverley, Shirley; Jamie Martin, Gifford; Jonathan Wood, St Andrews Links Trust; Kyle Cruickshank, Roxburghe; Lee Sayers, The London; Lee Strutt MG, RAC; Luke Elgie, High Post; Richard Jenkinson, Golf Club House (Elie); Richard Johnstone, Nairn Dunbar; Robert Meikle, Crail Golfing Society; Shaun Cunningham, Mortonhall; Stuart Adams, Cardigan

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

Adam Moss, The Henley; Darren Anderson MG, Bromborough; David Thompson, Hexham; David Warner, Woking; Eoin Riddell, Royal Dornoch; Gordon McKie, St Andrews Links Trust; Graeme Davidson, Murrayfield; Luke Elgie, High Post; Scott Corrigan, Royal Troon; Tom Coulson, Royal St Georges



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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



John, Jane and Phil Rowbottom

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A YORKSHIRE FARMER BUILDS A GOLF CLUB?

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Woolley Park, halfway between Wakefield and Barnsley, is different.

Its owner, Phil Rowbottom, didn't play the sport before choosing to open a golf course. When his family built the course and decided how it would be operated, they did so free from the traditions that shape what happens at other venues.

Instead, they looked at the golf club purely as a business venture, allowing the pursuit of profit to shape what happens on the course. The result is quite interesting.

"I don't have a head greenkeeper or an assistant," said the third generation farmer, who continues to run a thriving farming business alongside the golf course. "If any problems arise I deal with it and the team can just get on with preparing the course.

"We offer free membership for staff, because it's their course so why shouldn't they be able to play it? And we only have one greenkeeper who comes in early every morning, the rest work 8am until 5pm.

"I want my membership to see the staff at work because they are paying

'The membership sees what they've paid for and they get the opportunity to talk to the greenkeepers about what's happening around the course'

for them. The membership get the opportunity to talk to the greenkeepers about what's happening on the course — whether that's when they see them in the clubhouse, when they're working or even when they're out playing golf with them."

Phil's grandfather first moved to the farm in 1927, purchasing the land in 1949 and passing it on to his son, David. With revenues from agriculture diminishing, the family looked into other revenue streams, including agricultural

contracting and a haulage business. Then one day David announced to his family, including son Phil, that they would turn some of the land into a golf course.

The family stopped planting wheat in 1992 on a number of their fields and undertook a period of reconstruction, opening the course to golfers in 1995, despite not yet having a clubhouse on site.

"It was pretty much sink or swim," said Phil. "My mum would collect the £5 green fees from a shipping container and myself, my father and my wife, Jane, would cut the greens and fairways."

Phil remains a regular figure around the clubhouse, while his son John — a History graduate from the University of Newcastle — is a member of the five-strong greenkeeping team who's working life, it is safe to say, differs from that of most in the profession.

"The farm and golf form a single business," explained Phil. "We don't

Continued over



Woolley Park

Greens staff

John Rowbottom,
greenkeeper
Richard Thompson,
greenkeeper

Andy Scaman,
greenkeeper
Stuart Mason,
greenkeeper
Liam Davis,
greenkeeper

Machinery

Toro 3420
greens mower
2x Toro 6700
fairway mowers
Toro 4700
semi-rough
mower
3 x Toro 3100
tees and
surrounds
mower

2x Toro 3250
greens mower
Air2G2
Vredo seeder
Procore
Dakota
Topdresser
3x compact
tractors
Bernhard
grinder



Woolley Park's clubhouse

separate them as both are reliant upon each other. I employed a new greenkeeper last year and he's fascinated by the farming side of things. You take him on the farm and he loves it. We use our agricultural forklift to pick up 5 tonnes of sand. It's the same job, it's just bigger than what most greenkeepers are used to.

"We've also learnt a lot in the last year from another greenkeeper we employed who came over from Australia.

"He said we need to do more mechanical work on the greens. We already had an Air2G2, we've since bought a ProCore this year and we're doing much more work on thatch control, using aeration at different depths. We haven't sprayed a fungicide in four months on the course and the greens have never looked better.

"We're never shy about changing the way we think about things. Every day is a learning day. If you sit back and think 'that's good', it'll leg you up. As fast as you think you've got it right, there's something else to develop."

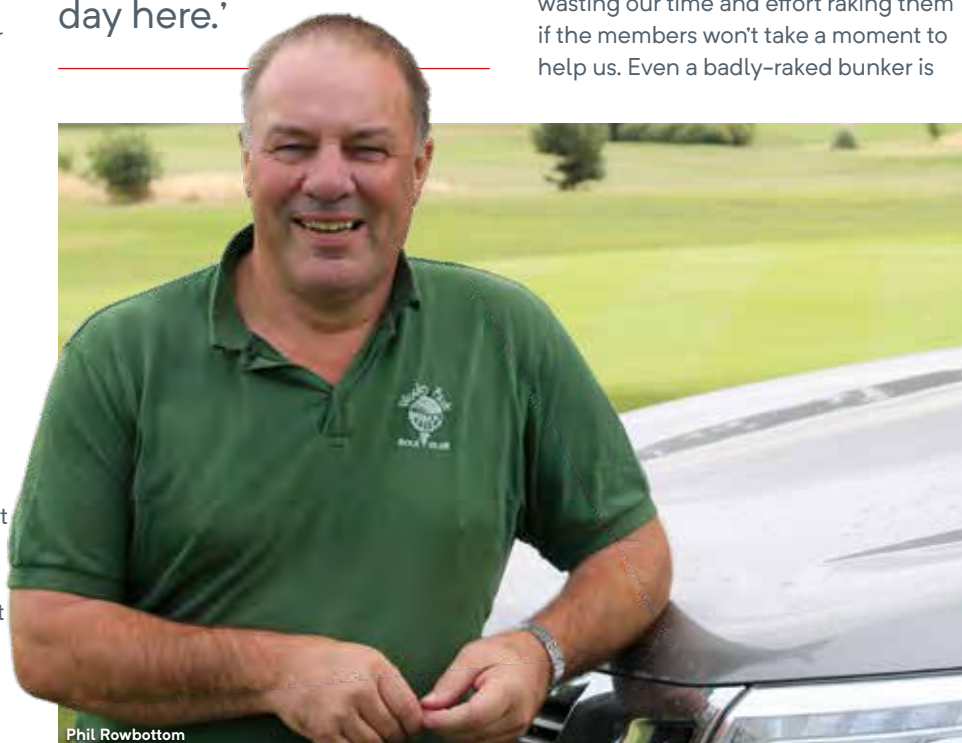
Phil has a bravado and confidence that comes from a combination of his heritage and his successes as a businessman. Some of his ideas jar against the sensitivities of the golf industry.

'We're never shy about changing the way we think about things. Every day is a learning day here.'

"I once had a member suggest that we ought to have a greens committee," said Phil. "I said we've got one, me.

"My regular comment at the monthly meeting with members is that I wish they would rake the bunkers better.

"We've threatened to stop raking the bunkers full stop, because we're not wasting our time and effort raking them if the members won't take a moment to help us. Even a badly-raked bunker is



Phil Rowbottom

better than one that's not raked at all.

"All the money we generate goes back into the course, because we want to do it better than our competitors and our members recognise that.

"Take the car park, why spend money on tarmacking? You only park your car there. My locker room hasn't been updated since I built it, but you don't sit in there for four hours, do you? You do spend four hours out on the course though. People come to play golf and everything else is on the side."

Part of the expansion of the club has seen the construction of a par-3 layout, drawn up by Michael Shattock, who designed the original 18-hole course.

"The very younger end wanted fast, cheap, quick golf," said Phil. "We wanted it to be casual and relaxed, so we don't have many rules there. If you want to turn up from work in your boots and your overalls, you can.

"Anyone who wants to can go over there to play, then they can come to the clubhouse and have a beer and I don't mind if they're still in their painting and decorating outfits. There's a dress code out on the main course but if you're on the par-3 and there's three of you sharing clubs and wearing your work boots, that's fine, go and enjoy yourselves.

"And funnily enough, we get more damage on the main course."

Sitting on the boundary between West and South Yorkshire, Phil, Jane, John and the family have built a robust business with enough facets that if one is struggling, the other is able to take up the slack. Last summer's drought led to a drop in crop yields of around 20%, but the course has thrived, thanks to the owner's single-minded ambition to improve the offering and an understanding that employing the right staff and then trusting them to do their jobs will reap rewards.

"Running a golf club is full on and we only close Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day," said Phil. "We have to make it better. It's great, but let's do it better tomorrow. I don't know what better will be yet, but let's find out and then do it.

"At the end of the day, I will always be a farmer, through and through. But I like this, even though it's more hard work and a great challenge, especially when you have 450 members who all think they're greenkeepers!"



Phil and John on the farm



Grain storage



Rapeseed crop

Learning in America

John Crawford

My name's Jon Crawford, I am 22 years old and I am from Newcastle County Down in Northern Ireland.

I am currently doing The Ohio State Program, through Ohio State University, interning at Isleworth Country Club in Florida.

From a young age I started playing golf on the Annesley Links course at Royal County Down. At the age of 13 I was offered a part time job on the greenstaff at Royal County Down during my summer holidays and my love for the job stemmed from there.

Once I finished school, I was offered a full time job and this is where my journey started.

When I arrived at Pine Valley the course had just been battered by storms, so we were very behind getting ready for the season with branch and leaf clean up. This was something I have never really had to do, coming from a links course.

As the months passed, the warm season grasses, such as the bermuda and zoysia, were starting to wake up after the winter period and the cool season grasses were thriving in the rising temperatures.

My summer at Pine Valley mainly consisted of mowing, rolling, spraying greens and looking after my greens watering loop in the afternoons —

weather dependent of course.

Being given my own greens loop was a massive responsibility. I was trusted to look after some of the best greens in the America. This was something I found extremely enjoyable and challenging and I was using watering techniques I didn't even know existed. It was challenging because of the heat and humidity. We wanted to maintain a high standard surface throughout the day whilst maintaining a healthy firm green.

In August I volunteered at the Northern Trust Open at Ridgewood CC in North Jersey, which was a highlight of my time in the state. I mowed greens for the week and had a mix of jobs in the afternoons. It was nice to switch it up from mowing fairways to putting out lighting rigs so the course would be fully lit up at 4am for us to get on with our work.

When I returned to Pine Valley after the Northern Trust we were preparing the golf course for our biggest



Alongside the other interns



With the other volunteers at the Hero World Challenge

competition of the year, The Crump Cup. This is a very big deal in amateur golf in the US as it's an 'invite only' tournament with a lot of history.

Since then I have moved down to Orlando, Florida and I am interning at Isleworth Country Club. I have been here for two months and really enjoy it. At Isleworth there are a lot less staff, compared to the 50 daily at Pine Valley. Because of this I have found myself learning a lot from the superintendent, Sean Duffy, and his assistant as they communicate with us interns daily.

I recently was in the Bahamas volunteering at the Hero World Challenge, which was an amazing experience. I spent the week mowing approaches on a triplex so it was very stress free, I was able to take it all in. It was also a really interesting culture change working alongside the Bahamian people all week.

While I was sat in CAFRE Greenmount studying my level 2, I would never have imagined that I would be preparing the golf course at Albany in the Bahamas for Tiger Woods' own tournament.

This was a huge deal for me as Tiger has been my idol all my life, so it

was my mission to get a photo with the GOAT by the end of the week. On the Sunday morning I got my opportunity to take a photo with him, I asked for a picture and he replied 'yeah sure'. I was completely star struck, my legs and voice were quivering as I asked and got my phone out.

I then took the photo while wearing my polarised sunglasses and because they were polarised I was unable to see my phone screen, so I didn't know if I had even got the photo I always wanted. If anyone reading this owns some polarised sunglasses, I'm sure you will understand.

It turns out I completely missed the picture and I got nothing, which left me pretty devastated!

I am excited to see what America has in store for me over my last remaining five months on the Ohio State Program. I have had the time of my life so far.

If anyone reading this has any questions about what I am doing and what I have done, feel free to send me an email and I can tell you about my experience.

Jcrawford11@live.co.uk



Note to self: remove sunglasses when taking photographs with Tiger Woods

My 'selfie' with Tiger

BIGGA Health and Safety Management System



Brought to you by Xact

BIGGA's online health and safety management system provides a comprehensive guide to all of the risks faced by greenkeepers during their day-to-day life.

For further help and information contact Xact

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XACT

‘Our course was under 10m of snow’

Chris Dyke



Snow coverage of golf courses in the UK can cause a huge number of problems in just a few days.

When it came to finding ways to cope, we thought we'd speak to someone whose golf club spends months underneath the snow.

Chris Dyke spoke to the greenkeeping team at Riederalp, high in the Swiss Alps, and explained how the course copes, despite spending half of the year buried beneath a thick layer of the white stuff.

The reaction of most greenkeepers to a couple of inches of snow overnight is, often, going to be relief at the prospect of not needing to mow the greens today. Maybe it's also a chance to catch up with some machinery repairs or paperwork?

In the UK a foot of snow can be the difference between getting in to work for the day or not.

With that in mind, spare a thought for Willy Kummer and his team at Riederalp golf course in Switzerland. Last winter they experienced a record-breaking nine and a half metres of snow over three months! That's about 30 feet in old money!

Come mid-April there was still a compact cover of about 2m over most of

the course and yet the course opens in the first week of June.

The first reaction would be to wonder what they can do to remove the snow quickly, but the reality is there is little you can do, apart from waiting for the sun to do its bit. For this reason, most of the greenkeeping staff spend April and early May catching up on their holidays, with a couple of weeks on the beach in Spain or Greece.

For greenkeepers in alpine resorts the work pattern is quite different to many other parts of the world. In the winter they work as ski instructors and lift attendants. For example, Willy himself is the golf course manager in the

Continued over



summer but in winter he runs the ski school in the resort. From October until May the course is as good as buried and apart from some routine machinery maintenance there would be little else to do.

The first task last April was to bring in local contractor Elmar Berthold to cut out the roads leading to the course. To help, the roads are marked out by two-metre high coloured posts either side of the road. However, this year the snow was so deep they couldn't see the posts and had to use the street lamps to mark out the road!

Like many, a major problem is not just cutting out the snow but trying to dispose of it in a resort that has no direct road access to the outside world.

This spring, Elmar concentrated on the roads in the resort first but then was able to cut his way to the clubhouse. Builders tasked with repairing the roof and clearing the snow from the patio and restaurant had in the meantime to use snow shoes or skis to get to the site.

So what can you do to reduce the damage on the course? It's a problem that Willy is working on, on an annual basis.

"We have considered spreading soil on the greens, to help the sun melt the snow," he said. "But the cost could be enormous since the only source of soil would be the valley below, and that has to be brought up, slung under the cable car in containers."

Then, when spring comes, the melting snow can itself be a major hazard.

"We are 2,000m above sea level here and even in May it can get very cold at night," said Willy. "If we do get an early melt there is a danger a really cold night could kill the newly emerged grass"

Willy and his team have had to adapt their greenkeeping techniques to cope with the high altitude and winter snow cover. Most years the course closes in late September. The greens are slit drained or hollowtined with a sand mix brushed in. Finally, they are given a fungicide treatment to control their worst enemy in the winter, snow mould. With luck, by November the course vanishes under the first falls of snow.

In the past the public would have no access to the area, but in more recent times the fairly flat fairways have been used for cross country skiing and some access to local hotels. This can also be a problem since it causes the snow to compact, resulting in extensive damage to the turf.

This spring, these areas in particular have emerged denuded of grass cover, causing quite a problem. At least the marked cross country routes avoid the greens, but all the same this is a serious problem.

This means that even in a poor skiing season with little snow cover, repeated heavy frosts (down to about minus 25°C) and the public can cause a lot of

damage to the course.

Last year's falls offered better than normal protection over many areas. To be fair most winter visitors would have had no idea they were skiing over a golf course.

This spring the course began to re-appear in mid May. Willy and his team applied a thin layer of fine soil to the snow in the critical greens areas. This focussed the effect of the sun, causing these areas to emerge seven to 10 days earlier. At this point the damage caused by snow mould became apparent.

"It's interesting," said Willy. "Some areas can be really serious and others untouched. This year the damage on several of the greens resembles someone leaving a hot pan on the grass."

"Only the grass tops are affected, so if we can have good warm weather the grass recovers quickly. We have used a grass and sand mix to repair more seriously affected areas."

In fact in one area shaded by trees, Willy even organised the use of a snow blower to trim off the top metre of snow so they could make a start!



Emerging fairways

One advantage is the location of the golf course. Although Riederalp lies 2,000m above sea level, it is in a very sunny south-facing location. This results in the climate being more akin to 1,500m.

While this is still high, it gives an added advantage over some of the other alpine courses that lie in deep valleys, where there is a significant risk of serious late frosts.

At just four months in length, the playing season is still quite short. The feeding regime is based on regular soil sampling with periodic visits from an agronomist to offer advice.

The greens comprise a festuca and agrostis mix and are normally cut daily, while the rough areas produce a mix of alpine grasses and flowers for which the region is famous.

The course was built in the mid to late 1980s. Unusually, the villagers had opted to retain the centre of the resort as open space and prevent the building of hotels and restaurants. This meant there was about 10 acres of gently sloping land going spare.

The fact this became a golf course is down to one man, Wolfram Kruger. Wolfram had moved in the mid-60's

from the nearby resort of Crans Montana, which had a golf course. He was a keen player and could see the potential but had to deal with a local community that had no experience of what a golf course was or entailed.

Mostly, they dismissed him as a fantasist and dreamer. In the early '80's one local landowner finally listened and offered to rent out enough land to make a start. After a group visit to inspect the course in Crans Montana, a wave of enthusiasm developed, which saw the course open in 1986.

For the resort, one of the key features of golf was the opportunity to develop an activity to attract tourists in the summer when the resort would otherwise be very quiet.

Now the club has 580 members, mainly from the local region and Switzerland generally. Overseas visitors still only comprise 10% of the membership, coming mainly from Germany and Belgium.

During the building of the course every single item, from sand for the bunkers to mowers and other equipment, was freighted up under the cable car, tripling the price in the process. Switzerland had very little

experience of building and maintaining golf courses, which meant until recently any staff had to be either tempted in from abroad or trained in Germany.

Now Switzerland has its own greenkeeper training, but there are still excellent opportunities for experienced greenkeepers from the rest of the world to add alpine resorts to their CV!

My final visit to the course was in mid-June. The final opening had been delayed by the course being too wet, but it was busy and bustling.

The golf professional is a Brit from Hampshire, named Giles Hickman. He made a few interesting comments on the course from a golfers' standpoint and said: "Because we are so high and the air is much thinner, the ball will fly about 10% further! It can also leave you a bit breathless if you hurry about."

Even so, the course has been closely fitted together to make the best use of space, but it does have a light airy feel, largely because of the amazing panoramic view of the mountains.

Giles added: "I like living here. The people are friendly and I spent last winter running one of the ski lifts and learning to snowboard.

"Not a bad life eh?"



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EDUCATE EXHIBIT EVOLVE



See what's new
for BTME 2019

BTME 2019

Every year, greenkeepers and turf managers from all over the world head to Harrogate Convention Centre for world class education and to meet exhibitors showcasing the latest innovations in the industry.

But we promised you the next evolution of BTME in 2019, and here it is.

There will be larger exhibition spaces thanks to the new alignment of BTME, which will now be accessed by Harrogate Convention Centre's Entrance 1. Throughout the halls we've developed a host of new offerings that will make your BTME experience more interactive than ever before.

Whether it's the golf simulator, seeing greenkeeping in action or

receiving support in the Member Wellbeing Area, this isn't the same BTME that you're used to.

At Golf Course Construction Live, a group of BIGGA members will undertake the construction of a revetted bunker and a USGA-specification green. Perennial and Rigby Taylor will be hosting a golf simulator, while exhibitors will be battling it out in the New Products Area for the prize of Most Innovative New Product, voted for by exhibition attendees.

Don't forget the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, taking place this year in the Harrogate Convention Centre's Main Auditorium, where the winners of the BIGGA Awards 2019 will be announced.

The Continue to Learn education programme was expanded for 2019 with nearly 1,000 more spaces available compared to 2018. But with 56% of spaces already booked up, there's not a moment to lose if you want to gain access to the industry's most comprehensive education experience.

BTME 2019 and Continue to Learn are set to be an incredible celebration of the turf maintenance industry, providing BIGGA members with world-leading education and networking opportunities.

Make sure you don't miss out.

Visit www.btme.org.uk for more information.

The BIGGA stand

The expansion of BTME has provided BIGGA with the opportunity to engage with members on a greater scale throughout the exhibition.

BIGGA's stand, located in the Blue Zone at the Harrogate Convention Centre, will provide a completely new experience throughout the show.

One of the highlights will be a theatre area, where regular short talks will be given, where you can learn more about some of the things that take place across the association throughout the year and a range of other topics.

Another highlight is the Member Wellbeing Area, where representatives from various bodies, including a skin cancer charity, mental health bodies, hearing loss experts and others will be able to discuss various issues relating to mental and physical health and wellbeing. Confidential meeting rooms will be available if you would like to have a quiet conversation.

The Job Shop will return, with the latest employment

opportunities available. The Learning & Development team will also be on hand to explain how you can progress your career through Continued Professional Development and other education, including higher education scholarship opportunities. Career expert, Tony Martin, from Golf Recruit, will be on hand to provide one-to-one career consultations.

The Membership Services Team will be available to talk to you about the benefits of BIGGA membership, including discounted shopping and travel offers, volunteering and networking opportunities and the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund, which seeks to provide aid to current and past BIGGA members who find themselves in difficulties.

Representatives from many of the services available to BIGGA members — such as ecology, HR and health & safety — will be available to provide in-depth advice.

Support will also be on hand relating to the BIGGA website, launched in March this year, and you can learn how to utilise this useful tool to its full potential.

Finally, a member's coffee lounge will provide seating and refreshments allowing you to take a break from the excitement of the exhibition halls and an opportunity to sit and speak with other BIGGA members and exhibition attendees.

To learn more about BTME 2019 and some of the exciting things that are taking place, head to the BTME website www.btme.org.uk



WOMEN IN TURFCARE



Prior to the BTME Welcome Celebration on Tuesday evening, female BIGGA members will be invited to attend a get together. This will be an opportunity to introduce yourself and make new contacts.

Then, following the Welcome Celebration, taking place in Harrogate's Main Auditorium, an

event will be held in the same location for all the women in the industry. It's going to be a fantastic opportunity to break down barriers, build friendships and share stories about breaking into the golf course maintenance industry from a female point of view.

BIGGA Head of Membership Services Tracey Maddison said:

"BIGGA has a growing number of female members and each year BTME welcomes more and more women to the exhibition. We'd like to make the event as welcoming as possible for everyone, ensuring no one is intimidated and misses out on some of the things that are taking place throughout the week as a consequence."

BIGGA Welcome Celebration 2019

Sponsored by Jacobsen

A celebration of BIGGA members will once again be taking place on the opening evening of BTME.

The BIGGA Welcome Celebration sponsored by Jacobsen will this year be held in the Harrogate Convention Centre's Main Auditorium and will be an opportunity for the industry to come together and celebrate the hard work and dedication of BIGGA members throughout the year.

Television presenter Naga Munchetty will once again host the event, with doors opening at 5pm, when attendees to the informal event will receive a drink on us, before festivities get underway at 5.30pm.

During the event, the winners of the BIGGA Awards 2019 will be revealed.

Also celebrated will be the achievements and successes of BIGGA members including:

- BIGGA Life Members
- BIGGA President and Vice President
- Continuing Professional Development Milestones
- Master Greenkeeper Certificates
- BIGGA Photographic Competition winner
- Toro Student Greenkeepers of the Year
- R&A Scholars

The finalists of the BIGGA Awards 2019 are:

Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year sponsored by Rigby Taylor

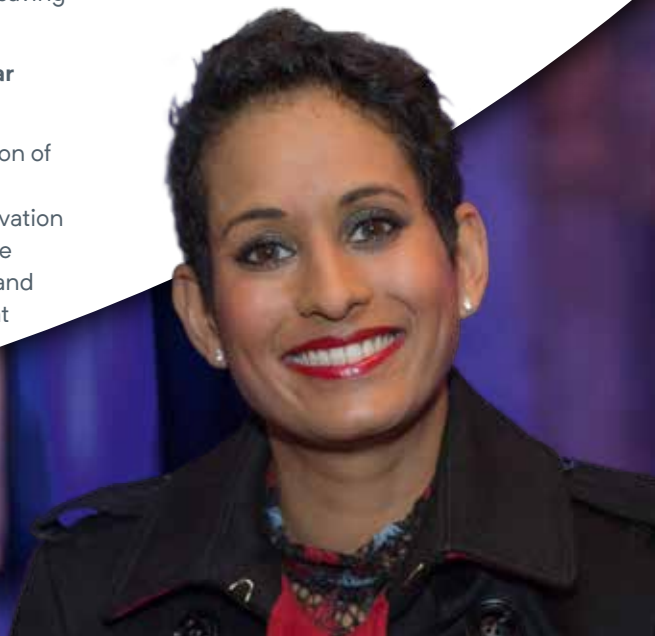
1. Gullane GC, Stewart Duff and team
2. Harleyford GC, Craig Earnshaw and team
3. Carolina GC, Matt Wharton and team

Outstanding Contribution of the Year sponsored by Jacobsen

1. Jack Percival, Chipstead, for work with the homeless
2. Amanda Dorans, Dundonald Links, for BIGGA volunteering and ecology work
3. Carl Flavell, Hickleton, for lifesaving on the golf course

Greenkeeping Project of the Year sponsored by Baroness

1. Ian Brown and team, Renovation of Skipton GC
2. Sean McLean and team, Renovation of Princes GC Himalaya course
3. Stuart Imeson, Bunker Camp and stepping up to manager role at Dunstanburgh Castle



GREENKEEPING IN ACTION

BTME 2019 will introduce hands-on greenkeeping to the Harrogate Convention Centre's exhibition halls.

Golf Course Construction Live will see head greenkeepers Stuart Imeson, of Dunstanburgh Castle, and Jack Hetherington, of Alnwick Castle, build a 3m revetted bunker and a 2m green to USGA specifications. Throughout the exhibition, Jack and Stuart will be aided by other former attendees of the hugely-popular bunker camps, first started by Stuart and now expanding around the country.

Construction will begin at 9am on Tuesday and will be supported by exhibitors at BTME, providing an insight into the process of constructing revetted bunkers — commonly seen on traditional links golf courses — and USGA-specification greens.

Golf Course Construction Live is a brand new offering from BIGGA, the organisers of BTME, and is an example of the exciting new opportunities to get involved that will be taking place throughout the exhibition.



NEW PRODUCTS AREA

Exhibiting at an event puts the companies who attend BTME in front of new customers and partners.

At BTME 2019 we will be introducing a New Product Area within the Harrogate Convention Centre's Blue Zone that will showcase the very best in innovation and development for the turf industry.

Featuring a range of recently-launched products, the area is expected to become a main attraction for buyers and decision-makers at the exhibition.

For the first time, BIGGA will also be awarding a prize to the best new innovation — chosen by attendees to the exhibition.

With limited space available — only the newest and most exciting products from BTME exhibitors will be chosen for display, the area will feature the greatest products from leading brands and independent exhibitors.

To qualify, products must have been launched between 1 September 2018 and 22 January 2019.

DOWNLOAD THE BTME 2019 APP FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE LUNCH

BIGGA has 20 £5 lunch vouchers up for grabs at the Harrogate Convention Centre. Twice a week in the build up to BTME, anyone who downloads the BTME 2019 smartphone app will automatically be entered into a draw to win lunch on us during the exhibition.

The app is the complete guide to BTME with details of events, a personal calendar and information about exhibitors and sponsors.

There are also details of discounts and offers available to visitors of the Harrogate Convention Centre, with more being added regularly.

Once you have downloaded the app you won't need WiFi to use the main features.

For those unable to attend BTME, the app is also a fantastic way to keep updated with everything that's taking place throughout the event.

To download the app, head to the App Store or Google Play on your Android device and search for BTME 2019.



Who will you meet at BTME?

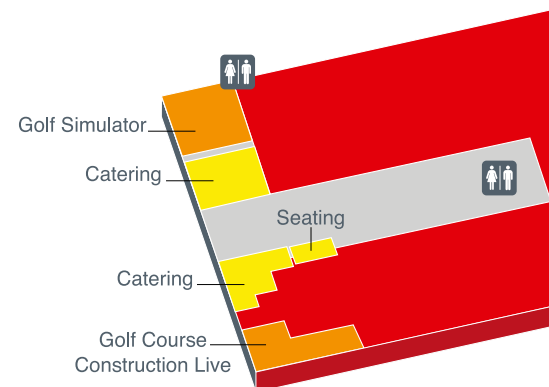
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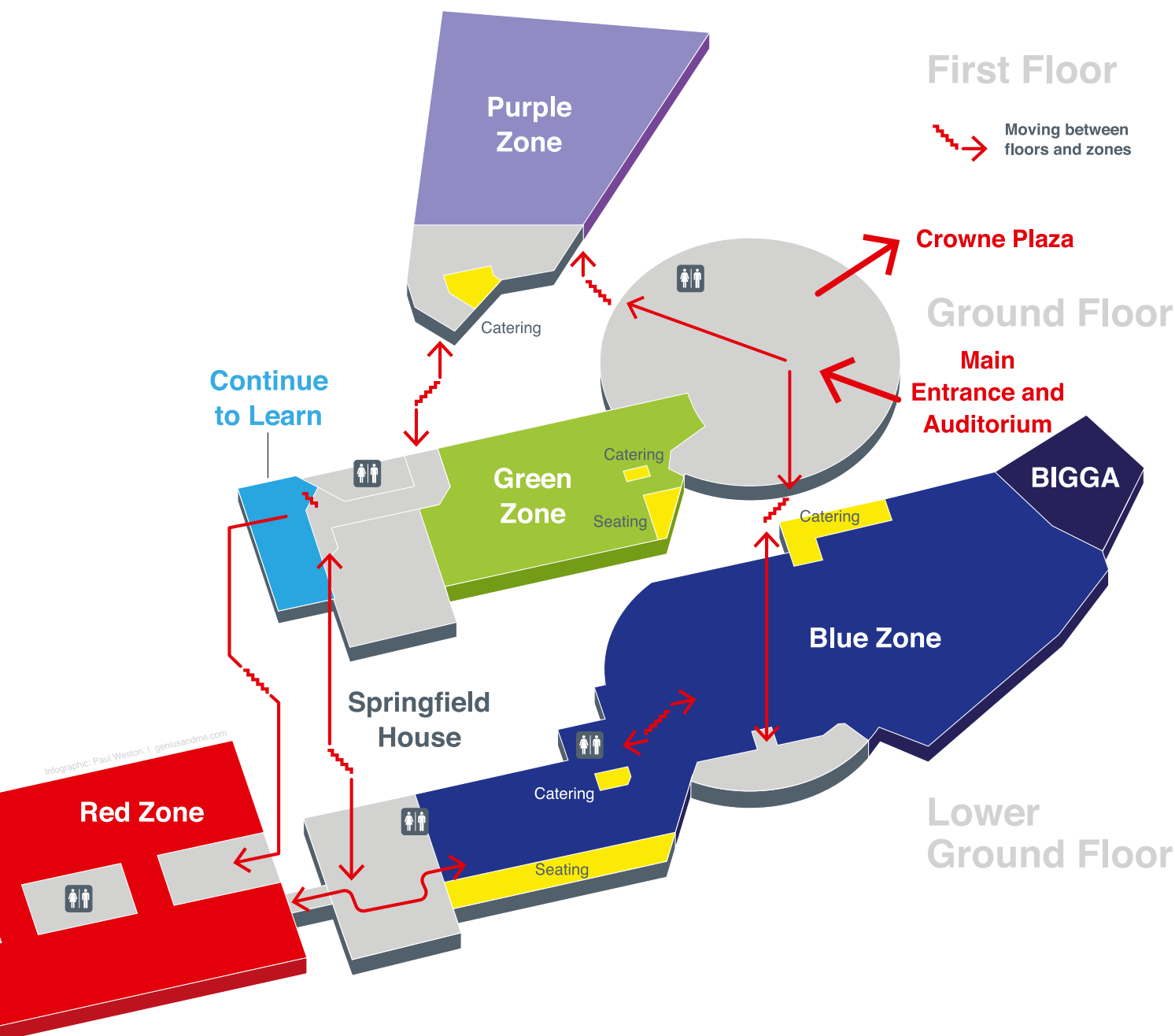
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Come and see us on the BIGGA stand 160

2019 BTME

What makes BTME so

It's easy for the organiser of a major exhibition to shout about how their event is a 'must attend'.

However, at BIGGA we're proud to say that we can back up our claim to BTME being among the most influential events in the golf and turf management industry in the world.

In 2018, BTME welcomed nearly 5,000 unique visitors into the Harrogate Convention Centre, an increase of 8.2% on the previous year.

The number of overseas visitors grew from 274 to 457 in 2018. That's an increase of 67% and represents almost 10% of visitors coming from outside the UK. Visitors from Ireland, Scandinavia, Europe and as far afield as Australia, Thailand and the USA all gathered in Harrogate for BTME and to take part in the fantastic networking and educational opportunities it offers.

Each of those visitors had access to the latest technology and innovation from more than 140 exhibitors representing all aspects of the golf and

KEY FACTS

150+ exhibiting companies

21.5 hours of exhibition

1.46 average days attended per visitor

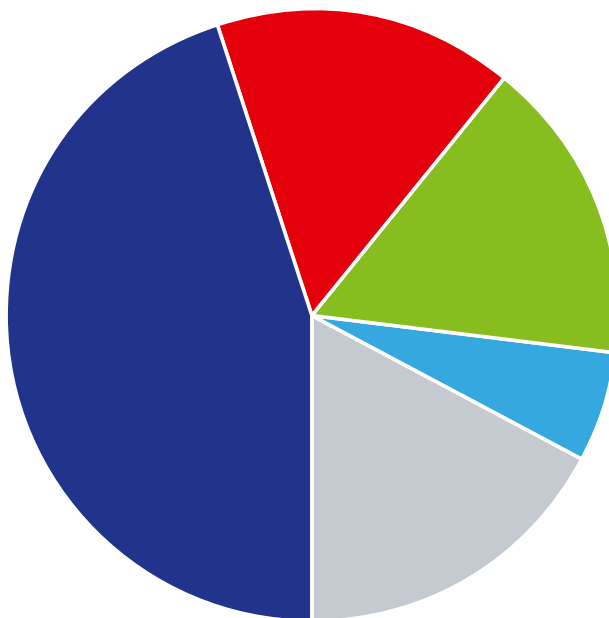
2 new live demonstration areas

3 new halls

turf maintenance industry.

Recognising the importance of BTME to the wider industry, John Deere chose the exhibition to announce it had renewed its partnership with the Ladies European Tour, while many other

VISITOR DEMOGRAPHICS



45% (2,250) golf greenkeepers

16% (800) supply/distribution/trade

16% (800) groundsmanship/sports turf

6% (300+) golf club management

17% other sectors

important?

exhibitors took the opportunity to launch their latest products, giving a real buzz and excitement to the whole event.

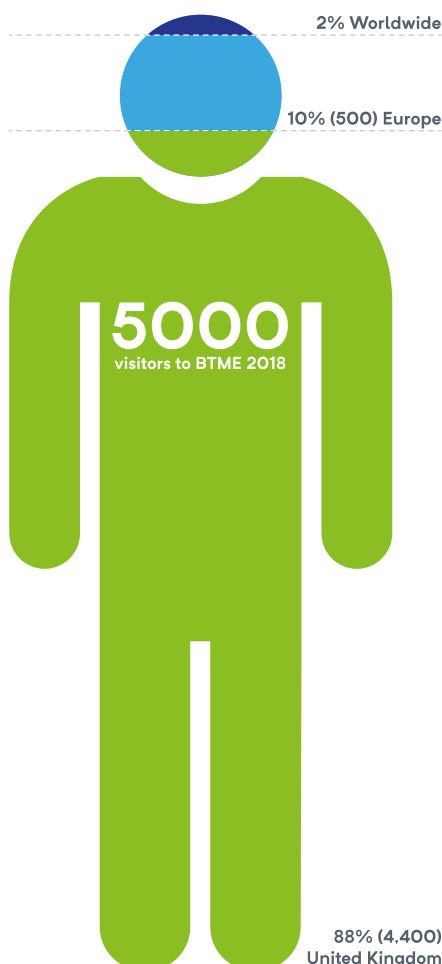
Many BTME visitors also chose to get involved with the Continue to Learn education programme, which in 2018 comprised 250 hours of education — and we're delighted to say we've expanded upon that offering for 2019, with a whole new range of conferences, forums and workshops amounting to almost 1,000 extra education places.

With more than 80 seminars and workshops, in 2018 we saw over 7,000 combined hours of greenkeeper education, amounting to more than two hours' education for every golf course in the UK.

Mid-winter can be a dark and dreary place out on the golf course, but we're delighted to say that BTME continues to be a shining light, helping to raise standards of turf management in the UK and further afield.

To find out more about BTME 2019, head to the website www.btme.org.uk

5,000 VISITORS IN 2018



The Harrogate Convention Centre and Harrogate itself

If you have ever spoken to anyone about BTME, you'll know that we can't lay claim to being the only reason for the success of the exhibition. Harrogate itself is an incredible attraction, with the Yorkshire spa town providing first class accommodation, bars and restaurants.

Ever since the Georgian era, when the town became famous for its waters that are reported to possess healing properties, Harrogate has been a popular destination for tourists. Consistently voted 'the happiest place to live' in Britain, Harrogate's spectacular architecture and laid-back culture makes it a brilliant place to host the premier turf management exhibition in Europe.

Throughout BTME, the town's pubs, bars and restaurants will become a hive of activity with friends from across the turf management industry coming together to rekindle old friendships and form new relationships.

During BTME week, visitors to the town can enjoy incredible visitor discounts, made available by our partners at the Harrogate Convention

Centre and offering discount on food, travel, drinks and many others.

The Harrogate Convention Centre has a history dating back to 1835, when the Spa Rooms stood on the site. The Royal Hall opened in 1903 as a venue for social events and by the 1930s the town was hosting 30 business events each year.

In 1982, the centre's 2,000-seater main auditorium opened, hosting the Eurovision Song Contest that same year.

In 2019, BTME will utilise that same auditorium for the BIGGA Welcome Celebration and a host of other events.

One of the new halls that BTME will move into for 2019 is Studio One, to be known as the Purple Zone. When the Tour de France came through Harrogate in 2014, the studio was populated by the world's press as a media hub. BTME will utilise four other halls for exhibition space, offering an incredible 5,300sqm space in total, while the Continue to Learn education programme will be centred in its popular Queen's Suite location, at the very heart of the exhibition.



THE SOCIAL TOOL OR THE SOCIAL TRAP?

Michael Budd,
deputy course manager, Westerham

With communication a key part of how to maintain and run a golf course, social media is being used more than ever.

Facebook, Messenger, Instagram, Tumblr, Twitter and Skype are just a few, with 2.4 billion users a year on Facebook alone. Social media can have some fantastic benefits, however there are also some social traps that we must be careful not to fall into.

We need to be adaptable in the way that we use social media. Technology helps us stay ahead of the game and demonstrate we are forward thinking.

We can use it to work smarter, but how can we be strategic with the social media channels we use and how can we avoid the pitfalls that come with it?

Staying in touch with family or friends abroad is a fantastic way of connecting us, but there always seems to be a flip side. People airing their problems or talking about work issues online isn't a route to take when using social media as your problems then become public.

Using social media for both my personal use as well as professional use has proved challenging at times

and has also led to me making many mistakes along the way. For this reason it's probably useful to work out what you're going to be using social media for? Would it be for business and professional purposes, or personal use to stay in touch with friends and family?

If it's for professional use, it may be worth considering joining your golf club's page or feed, if they have one, or suggesting that they create one just for the greens staff and maintenance team. Such pages can come in very useful to bridge the communication gap between members and greens teams.

Pros and cons for the use of social media.

One of the biggest pitfalls I see is the habit of airing your problems on social media platforms. I know this can be a great way of offloading and releasing stress, where you can gain support from others, but it can also be seen by everyone and interpreted in different ways by a variety of people.

Tempting as it is to ask your online friends for support, this is probably not the way to conduct yourself. Instead, reverting back to the old-fashioned way of picking up the phone or meeting a friend for a drink or coffee in person, could be much more suited.

Publishing photographs of your course is another great way of encouraging more business. But let's face it, bad photos can cause a lack of business as much as good picture will encourage it. A misplaced rake on the course, an uncut section of grass or leaves in a picture can open us up to criticism. We greenkeepers are all critics, as it's part of our job to spot details such as these.

Then if you do comment, due to tone of voice or humour not always being obvious through social media, if you aren't careful things can be taken the wrong way and blown out of proportion.

Every site is different and has a different budget and different staffing levels and it is when people forget this that unfair criticism can arise.

I'm a huge fan of pictures myself as watching sunrises and sunsets or capturing a snowy course is a fantastic

perk of the job. But I was reminded by a course manager once to be careful of the perception of others. While you may be busy in work hours and taking pictures afterwards or just spending a few seconds snapping a quick little bit of wildlife, others may see this as you aren't actually busy getting any work done, especially if it's done too often.

Photos can also be a distraction. By viewing pictures of what others are doing at other courses, staff may not be working as efficiently as they could. Their heads may be turned to look for employment at a course they often view and perceive as better.

There are unfortunately some sad stories of where golfers have seen such practices and methods being carried out on another site and have reported their findings back to their course and demanded the same standards or practices. We've all heard the saying 'site specific', but not everyone understands what this means, or the investment required to achieve such aims.

Being turf managers, we all like to try new products, machines, chemical applications or practices, and once we find a good one, how great it is to share these ideas and help the industry move forward. But posting about certain

'While you may be busy in work hours and taking pictures after hours or just spending a few seconds snapping a quick little bit of wildlife, others may see this as you aren't actually busy getting any work done, especially if it's done too often.'

products can be seen to be bias, or even pigeon-holing you to be a user of a certain brand or manufacturer. If you get a reputation as a user of a certain brand, other suppliers may avoid visiting you.

But use social media correctly and it is a fantastic and hugely integral part of communication at most golf clubs.

Continued over



We are able to post updates on whether the course is open, we can inform members about maintenance projects being carried out or wildlife that's been spotted. We can market ourselves to the outside world as not just grass cutters, but professional turf managers.

Many of us feel a sense of pride at the end of our day and are proud to share our hard work with others. I have gained positives with this and a lot of interest from people asking what club I work at. People have even asked if they could have the address to come down for a round after seeing pictures marketing the course in a good light.

The online support our community of greenkeepers provides in helping diagnose diseases or disorders, or fault-finding problems with machines, is very effective and often delivers instant results. Online posting hits a large audience in timely fashion, saving the need to travel to a neighbouring course.

Again, this is a double-edged sword as opinions about the person seeking help can be formed by others reading it. Some can read this as we greenkeepers not being knowledgeable or competent, which is completely unfair.

A number of clubs have their staff undertake social media bans. This removes the temptation to post about the club and staff focus on what they are doing, instead of becoming distracted.

I have been using golf and turf-related social media for around six years now and like many others I felt the need to share what tasks we had been doing and what ideas we were trialling. One such idea, around bunker construction, led to me using a large manufacturer's name and say how we were trying our own version of their product. This could be seen as stealing a patented idea.

Luckily for me, my mentor and boss at the time proof read through my posts before making them public, especially as we weren't supposed to be using social media. He helped me reorganise the wording and content of the message and edit the post so that it was more suitable. This was one of the first lessons I learnt when using social media in the greenkeeping industry: you never know who's watching.

You can always have a second read through what you're about to post, to double check the spelling and grammar and think through how it would be perceived on the outside. This can be said for photographs too. Check through



Michael at work at Westerham and, below, a snowy day captured on camera



'The posting of this online hits large audiences in timely fashion, saving the need to travel to a neighbouring course. Again, this is a double-edged sword'

what you're about to post, of course everyone's a critic, but this can still be exercised before posting.

After a few bad starts on social media, I decided to post less written posts and stick to displaying more

'pride and joy' pictures of my place of work. This has been brought up in job interviews where I have been told that, "it's nice to have someone who takes pride in where they work".

At FTMI I learnt that we are a brand. Just like when you see companies marketing their brand, we must do the same. Use social media with that in mind. Are we a hardworking brand? Are we a caring brand or a rude one? Do we have high or low standards? All of this can be shown in a picture or a post online. What brand are you?

A recent positive that happened to me was being offered tournament experience from a course manager, purely because he had seen the passion — as he described it — that I expressed online.

Many mistakes were made on the way and I'm still learning and still making mistakes, but it's nice to know that the positives are always being noticed.

Visit us at
Stand 209
BTME Show
2019

Reinventing a modern classic

As part of Fazio Design's redesign of Adare Manor course in County Limerick, Capillary Concrete was installed as a bunker liner product to all of its bunkers on this famous layout.

Since it opened in 2018, the course bunkers have benefited from improved drainage and moisture control, helping to create a superior experience for all golfers.

Capillary Concrete was delighted to partner with Adare Manor's Alan MacDonnell and his team to ensure the highest of standards were met at this prestigious facility.

Come and visit the Capillary Concrete team at Stand 209 at BTME show in Harrogate and see why so many golf courses are choosing Capillary Concrete just like Adare Manor.

Find out more by visiting www.capillaryconcrete.com or contacting:
Worldwide: martin@capillaryconcrete.com +46 705 500 123
Europe: kdiamond@capillaryconcrete.com +44 7979 651765

Photo by Larry Lambrecht
courtesy of Adare Manor Resort



CapillaryConcrete



Hole cutting

Kerran Daly,
Life member

On average, the greenkeeper will cut a new hole 2,800 times per year. Does he get it right every time?

It is rather ironic for greenkeepers that the most important area on the golf course to any golfer is a small circle devoid of grass.

The hole is the final destination for the golfer's ball and its condition is one of the most critical elements that can affect a golfer's round. A neatly trimmed and well-presented hole seals the deal on a properly set up golf course.

Precision is the order of the day and the critical elements are that the hole is not crowned, that it is of the correct dimensions, that it is neatly trimmed,

that the cup is a minimum of 1" below the surface and that the pin stands up straight and perpendicular to the green.

The careful greenkeeper will achieve all of these by:

- Using a cutting board to avoid heaving the ground and crowning the hole when removing the plug of soil and turf.
- Removing the holecutter and plug without excessive sideways movement, which can enlarge the hole.
- Gently brushing grass in towards the hole with the back of the hand before trimming neatly.
- Tapping the cup home with a cup setter to the exact 1" depth.
- Cutting the hole perpendicular. If cutting on a slight slope, the pin should not be at 90 degrees to the slope as it will appear to be leaning over. Replace worn pin ferrules and cups as these will result in a loose fit and a leaning flagstick.

The golfer is only likely to come across these perfect conditions if he happens to be following the greenkeeper around the course. The rigours of play, particularly during adverse weather conditions, can easily disturb the equilibrium.

The weather and soil conditions can have a dramatic affect on hole condition. On a wet, sandy rootzone the constant

replacement of the pin can send the cup downwards into the soil. This can cause the turf around the hole to collapse inwards slightly, resulting in a smaller than regulation hole.

Conversely, on a wet and windy day on a heavier soil, the movement of the pin and the swelling of the soil can cause the cup to ride upwards from its set position of 1" below the surface.

Spare a thought for the dedicated greenkeeper who hauls himself out of bed at 5am on Saturday morning, carries out three hours of precision hole-cutting, only to find on Monday morning a plethora of complaints about the hole conditions over a wet and windy weekend.

Golfers can help maintain the hole condition by some simple housekeeping. When retrieving the ball, do not stand too close to the hole as this causes crowning. Note how the professionals lean over to avoid doing this. Do not retrieve the ball with putters as there is a chance of damaging the neatly-trimmed hole edge. When replacing the pin, take care not to damage the hole edge and make sure it goes all the way home as it will tend to lean and damage the hole edge if not properly located in the cup.

Greenkeepers are a proud bunch who want nothing but the best for their golfers. It's a small job, but it's worth taking the time to do it well as it also the one spot on the golf hole that will come under the most scrutiny.



LAND-BASED TRAINING

Ian Sumpter

Depending on who you talk to, training can be seen as either a game changer and valuable resource or an emotive word.

When managers view training in a negative way, they can often miss the aspect of 'staff development', which can improve results and profitability.

With this in mind, I want to briefly look at how to manage staff development and what training is required when using land-based machinery, as well as how we can personally be responsible for our own professional development.

When we enter an economic recession a lot of businesses look to cut back on expenditure to help weather the storm. We have experienced this across the globe over the past several years and one area that often gets cut can be staff training. Businesses often falsely see training as a cost centre that has no return on profit and an easy target to save money.

It has been the bane of my career, demonstrating that training is in fact a contributing factor to increased productivity and improved profits. How do you show with facts and figures how well trained and motivated staff can impact the profitability of a business?

I have often demonstrated with



written reports the success of a training programme, but it is much harder to show the difference that the impact of the training has had on the business, or the benefits brought about by improved staff knowledge. Benefits such as how training successfully impacts your business is a much harder point to show management or committees.

One of the most forward-thinking manufacturers I have dealt with in recent years was an engine manufacturer. When the recession hit, their philosophy was, 'in times of economic down turn the best reaction is to increase training'. Their belief is

based on the fact that while sales of new machines are stagnant, customers need to keep older stock serviced and maintained.

Then, when the global economy comes out of a recession and sales increase, customers are more satisfied with their product, more skilled to use and maintain products, and more likely to be satisfied with the service they receive.

Sadly, this view is few and far between and it is seen by managers as far too easy to reduce or eliminate training as a short term cost-saving exercise.

MACHINERY TRAINING

What training is required?

Once it has been established that training is an important part of the profitability, quality and staff well-being, it is important to know who is responsible and what training is required. Predominantly it is the responsibility of the employer and management team to manage staff training, making sure it is the correct training and fit for purpose. Forward-thinking managers will see the benefits of staff training and a structured training plan.

Yet how many managers have the time or resources to write or manage a full training plan?

When training plans are developed, they can show the balance of skills within the team and identify any gaps in skills. This can be proactive with planning future training, help to create a realistic budget and minimise the impact of losing skilled staff.

Remember, the balance of skills within the team needs to be maintained to ensure maximum efficiency and productivity. When developing a structured training plan, consideration should be given to each employee's capabilities regarding:

- Competency ceiling, i.e. their own ability to absorb new skills

- Their individual learning needs, considering dyslexia or learning difficulties
- Past experience and continued professional development
- Career progression and development

When you add to this the sourcing of training from different providers, if done correctly, training management can swallow up a lot of valuable time. This is another reason training can be pushed to the back of the 'to do list'.

A one stop training approach is becoming more popular as it is cost effective and one less thing for a manager to spend time on. Additionally, it puts you in touch with a training professional that keeps abreast of

ever-changing processes and legislation.

However you decide to manage training, it is understood in the land-based skills industry that certain training is a requirement. Manual handling, pesticide application or chainsaw and machinery use are some examples.

With regards to machinery operation, regulations cover many aspects of managing the safe use of work equipment. For instance, they require the selection of suitable equipment for the job, maintenance, inspection, adequate information and training for operators.

Continued over



The whole team can get involved with training



Learning how to measure a slope

Article 9

Training of workers

The employer shall take the measures necessary to ensure that:

- (a) Workers given the task of using work equipment receive adequate training, including training on any risks which such use may entail;
- (b) Workers referred to in Article 6(b) receive adequate specific training.

Article 6

Work equipment involving specific risks

When the use of work equipment is likely to involve a specific risk to the safety or health of workers, the employer shall take the measures necessary to ensure that:

- (a) The use of work equipment is restricted to those persons given the task of using it;
- (b) In the case of repairs, modifications, maintenance or servicing, the workers concerned are specifically designated to carry out such work.

This aspect has been unchanged since the Provisional Use of Work Equipment Regulations were introduced in 1992. However, we did see some changes in 1998 with the introduction of some hardware requirements, such as protecting against the risk from mobile equipment rolling over or overturning by (for instance) the provision of rollover protective structures.

As an industry we fully understand when using chainsaws in the workplace that we need to be trained

in their use. Operators should be competent in the use of chainsaws and this is demonstrated in the form of nationally-recognised training supported by a recognised assessment process.

Likewise, you should ensure that self-propelled work equipment, including any attachments or towed equipment, is only driven by workers who have received appropriate training in the safe driving of them.

The most common question I get as a training consultant is what is



Undertaking machinery training

'appropriate' training and 'who' can provide it?

Employers will need to establish which machine is appropriate for the task and what training is required in each particular circumstance.

In the land-based skills sector there is industry-recognised, externally-provided training available on the use of most work equipment. Additionally, as long as training is provided competently and to the standard necessary to ensure health and safety, there is no bar to training being given by competent in-house staff.

In these cases, it is desirable that those providing the training have some skill and aptitude to undertake training, with sufficient industrial experience and knowledge of the working environment to put their instruction in context.

They should also have the ability to assess the skills attained by the person they are instructing. The degree of skill, knowledge and competence to do so will depend on many factors, including the nature of the work equipment and the risks it poses. For most everyday activities involving work equipment, adequate training can be delivered in-house using the manufacturer's instructions and the background

'The most common question I get as a training consultant is what is 'appropriate' training and 'who' can provide it?'

knowledge and skills of more experienced workers and managers.

It is worth noting when delivering in-house training that there is a similar duty to ensure adequate training and professional development in relation to supervisory and managerial staff delivering the training. Continued Professional Development (CPD) is a crucial part of demonstrating that our skills and knowledge are up to date. Professional organisations often have CPD recording as part of the benefits of being a member. In some cases there is funding available to draw from to pay a percentage of the training costs.

For managers, there is support to help deliver training:

1. Attend a 'train the trainer' course. Some training providers offer groundcare industry bespoke training that has been specifically designed to meet this demand.
2. Contract out your operator training to external trainers to deliver bespoke training certified by the company providing the training. Most manufacturers and training providers offer this type of training.
3. Use a training provider to deliver a nationally recognised training course through an awarding body.

With any option, cost will be a consideration, but all options can be relatively inexpensive. The main consideration will be the training standard should be adequate in ensuring the health and safety of your workers and any people who may be affected by the work, so far as reasonably practicable. I always remind people there is the minimum standard expected as a starting point, but it is always recommended to aim higher as good working practice.

EDUCATE EXHIBIT EVOLVE

BTME 2019 | 22-24 January 2019
Harrogate Convention Centre | btme.org.uk

The turf industry is rapidly changing. Autonomous machinery, pioneering grass species and state of the art turf health products are redefining how turf professionals achieve their goals.

BTME, too, is evolving, and 2019 will see the exhibition expand into alternative facilities in the Harrogate Convention Centre providing visitors with an enhanced BTME experience.



BIGGA
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association



BTME

Putting micro under the mic

Turf nutrition and inputs are an important part of the turf manager's role, either on a golf course or sports ground.

Many variables will determine a nutrition programme, such as the soil type, the grass species and the use of the surface being prepared. Often, it will start with a soil analysis as a review of the growing medium is a good foundation to build the programme around.

Of all the macronutrients, the big three are well known: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K), and these are the focus of any nutrition programme. Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg) and Sulphur (S) are another three, and these are equally important to turf health.

Magnesium is especially essential as it is a key nutrient for plant growth and plays a key role in the chlorophyll

molecule. The molecular structure of chlorophyll consists of a large heterocyclic aromatic ring, known as a chlorin, of four Nitrogen atoms surrounding a central Magnesium atom and several attached side chains. Therefore, Magnesium is essential for photosynthesis and the plant's ability to transfer sunlight energy into proteins.

What, then, are micronutrients?

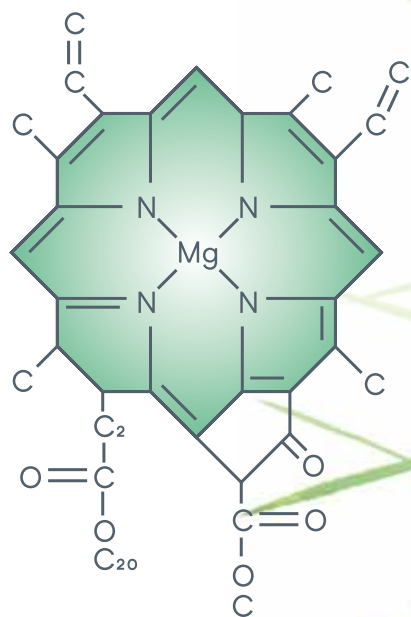
Plants require other minerals in trace amounts for health and function, and the elements known to be essential are Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), Boron (B), Chlorine (Cl) and Molybdenum (Mo).

A soil report may show exchangeable results, detailing the levels in the soil, while it may also go into further detail and show extractable results and the amount available to the plants. As these are only required in trace amounts, they can often be overlooked in a nutrition package, or just a generic trace element package added into a tank mix.

Most soil results generally show deficient levels of micronutrients in the soil (soils with low pH), so a careful look at each element and their function may just be the key to healthier turf.

Iron

Often this element is seen in excessive quantities in a soil due to many years, if not decades, of applying ferrous sulphate. High levels of this element can restrict the uptake of other nutrients by the plant, notably essential ones such as P and K. It may be necessary to reduce the iron in the soil, which can take a while. Essentially, look at the sources of iron being used in the future. Iron is required in chlorophyll formation and aids in reactions with cell division and growth. It is also an important component of plant enzymes that regulates nitrogen use and energy transfer.



Left: plant chlorophyll

onutrients

icroscope

Warren Bevan

Copper

Photosynthesis has become a recurring theme, and here is no exception. Copper is critical for photosynthesis and chlorophyll formation, plus necessary in carbohydrate and nitrogen metabolism. It is thought that copper may also have a role in disease management.

Zinc

Low soil organic matter is frequently associated with low zinc levels, so sand constructions by design are low in organic matter. Therefore, zinc may be required as part of a nutrition programme. Zinc is necessary for plant growth and is taken up by the plant as a cation Zn^{++} . It is a factor to assist tillering and plant density, which could be useful following aeration or in the spring. It is utilised in the activation of enzymes that produce energy, chlorophyll formation, growth hormone regulation and cell growth. Zinc is also important in calcium translocation in the plant.

Boron

Is essential for cell division, shoot and root growth, assisting in controlling plant hormones and playing a role in DNA synthesis. Boron also aids translocation of sugars around the grass plant.

Of the last two micronutrients, **chlorine** plays a role in photosynthesis and **molybdenum**, required in the smallest quantities, is a component of an enzyme that reduces nitrate in plants.

Manganese

Soil moisture can affect plant available manganese, during periods of increased soil moisture, plant-available Mn^{++} can be reduced to Mn^+ , which is unavailable to plants.

Manganese is essential for uptake of two macronutrients, phosphorous and magnesium, plus nitrate assimilation in the plant. Another function is the assimilation of carbon dioxide in photosynthesis, aiding chlorophyll production, which we know is important for producing long chain proteins. Manganese has been found to suppress take-all patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*) on bentgrass. For optimum turfgrass performance, manganese and iron levels should be balanced at a ratio of 3:1 (Iron:Manganese).

Conclusion

A Formula One team will make micro adjustments to a front wing or to tyre pressure to gain advantage going into a corner or on a straight. While putting together your nutrient programme for your turf, consider the role of these elements and how important they are. A few micro adjustments may give you an advantage in turf quality, growth and health.

WORKING WITH TREES

**Managing trees
on the golf course**

Alasdair Hood,
Arboricultural and
Horticultural Consultant

Tree Management on the golf course



Working with trees is rewarding and after 40 years in the arboricultural and horticultural industry I have learned to really appreciate them.

This is regardless of where I find them, in streets, large parks, stately homes, domestic gardens or indeed on a golf course. In general, they all fulfil a function for the owner and users of the site. This is because trees have longevity, stature and above all a profoundly positive impact on the environment.

Take for example a golf course (even a links course). Remove the trees and imagine how bare the area would look.

When managing a landscape with trees, remember that like turf, trees are biological entities, which live and die. They often give the appearance of being eternal as some can outlive several generations of people, but this isn't the case. Golf course managers spend a lot of time and money on managing turf to ensure play is as good as it can be. I have found over the years that trees are often neglected because they are not seen as an important and valued resource. Many trees are planted at considerable cost and effort and are never given another thought.

How many moribund trees do you have on your course? A moribund tree is one that, as a species should be large, but has remained stunted for decades due to poor management. How many trees have been damaged by machinery, by a golfer's swing or by a golf ball and how many of these trees have no future?

At this point I want you to stop and think about the total number of trees you have on your course. Do you know what percentage of the trees are over mature, mature, semi mature or young?

Continued over



Picture 3: New trees planted, but were pines the correct species?

This is important as it gives you an indication of age profiles of the tree population.

You could have a high proportion of over mature trees for example, which have a relatively short future life span. If this is the case, the planting of young trees needs to be undertaken.

As a rule of thumb, the ideal tree population would comprise of about 10% of the tree cover area occupied by young trees, 40% by semi-mature trees and 50% by mature trees, with perhaps the occasional over-mature (venerable) tree specimen where it poses no threat to the public.

However, as young trees are planted at relatively close spacings, there should be proportionately more young trees. If we take an example of a parkland golf course where there are 100 trees, all planted 150 years ago, they are all now fully mature, bordering on the over mature and will not last more than 30–50 years. In the absence of any planned management, there will be effectively no large trees on the site within a generation. In this case a “do nothing” approach to management is only appropriate for the current generation of golfers and not future ones.

Aesthetically the trees must give a balance of colour, be in proportion and scale within the landscape, be of all ages and above all be managed to reduce the risk to course users.

When I visit a large site, I generally walk round the course with the head

greenkeeper and the greens convener. They are usually keen to show me areas of concern, which is a good starting point. En route I will point out any problem trees. It might be a tree that has had the bark stripped at the base and is clinging to life or it may be that severe and poor pruning has caused large wounds. In these cases, it is likely that I will suggest that there is no future for the tree and it should be removed. It is pointless working around a tree like this, costing time and effort. Remove and re-plant.

I often come across trees where the tree ties have not been removed and are now growing into the tree. There is no future for these trees, either.

Further out on the course, there may be large mature trees that have evidence of fungal attack and have huge cavities at the base. This may lead

As a rule of thumb, the ideal tree population would comprise of about 10% of the tree cover area occupied by young trees, 40% by semi-mature trees and 50% by mature trees,

to a discussion about the importance of the tree in the landscape and how it might affect play. The tree may be a hazard and one must assess the risk by considering the likelihood of failure. The risk could be removed by felling or by creating an exclusion area round the tree, thus keeping players away. There are of course other options. However, the most important consideration is to the safety of the course users.

As indicated earlier, trees are a dynamic entity, increasing in size over time, often surreptitiously encroaching onto holes. In that case, it is time to consider thinning, pruning or complete tree removal.

The challenge now is to ensure your club members understand the problems of trees and their management, as many of today's club members subscribe to the current misinformed but widespread view that no tree should ever be removed. A report from an arboriculturalist will help, if presented correctly through the committee system to the members. Give plenty of warning of any pending tree works.

When trees are lost or removed, I would always recommend the removal of the tree stump. This reduces a food source for disease. It also allows you to replant new trees on this site. Having said this, it is a big job to remove a large root.

Tree selection (species choice) for your site is important. Consider soil type, aspect, rain fall, type of course, species of trees already on site and close by that are doing well. Be careful not to plant

trees that have thick leathery leaves that take a long time to rot down or may interfere with play. Planting trees requires care, with well-prepared planting pits. The trees need to be covered to the correct depth and staked correctly. There is a British Standard, BS8545-2014, that deals with this. Make provision for watering these trees in the first few years after planting. To aid establishment keep a one-metre circle round the tree clear of grass and ensure you buy your trees from a reputable supplier.

Thinning out groups of trees or small woodlands over time is important. If they are not thinned, trees will become leggy in the middle and one sided round the edges. If the trees are progressively thinned as they grow, they will develop much better. It's also easier to remove trees from a well-maintained copse without the remaining leggy ones blowing down.

Another thing that needs to be considered is to use correct procedures for pruning. Do not just lop and top, prune with care. Stubs should not be left as they feed disease, which may eventually affect the long-term survival of the tree. Make sure your pruning does not destroy the aesthetics of the tree.

After pruning, it should still look like a tree of that species. Again, there is a British Standard, BS:3998-2010, which explains best practice.

There is so much more to tree management on golf courses. Perhaps some of your staff would benefit from a CPD-related course on tree management? Getting a consultant in to discuss any issues and the way forward may well prove a major advantage.

Here is one final thought: I assume you keep records of your activities, such as spraying and fertiliser application, but do you keep records of tree inspections? You should be aware of the trees that potentially could cause harm if they were to fail in some way. You should have a record that they have been inspected and findings recorded on a regular basis. At a basic level I would suggest that you take a methodical look around the course after a high wind event, making sure there are no broken and hung up branches waiting to fall on a golfer.

Don't wait until the golfers report a problem to you. It could be too late!

Continued over



The tree tie has been allowed to grow into the tree

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Makita | New cordless 18v LXT top handle chainsaw designed for forestry professionals

The new Makita DUC254Z 18V Brushless Top Handle Chainsaw LXT is designed for forestry professionals.

With a single 18V Lithium-Ion battery it generates a 570 watt output providing ample power to run the $\frac{3}{8}$ inch chain over the 25cm bar at up to 24 metres per second matching the performance of a petrol machine. The Brushless motor ensures longer runtime, substantially greater power and lower maintenance.

Setting an industry benchmark this new model features the main power switch with auto-off function making it one of the safest chainsaws on the market. It automatically turns the machine off if the operator does not grip the lock-off lever within 10 seconds of turning the machine on. Equally, the Auto-Off function kicks in if the operator does not trigger the switch within one minute, even if the lock-off lever is gripped. And again, if the operator does not grip the lock-off lever within 10 seconds after releasing the lock-off lever the Auto-Off function takes control. Classified as a top-handle model this chainsaw should only be used by trained and certificated professionals.

Light and compact, weighing just 2.8kg, this machine is designed for operators when climbing and for single handed use, and is ideal for tree pruning. Neatly packaged with a sturdy hand-grip the DUC254Z features a variable speed control trigger, electric chain brake and kickback brake. It also provides a soft start function which accelerates the motor into action reducing the sudden torque load on start up. Sold as body only, it has an oil capacity display, hanging hook and captive nuts.



Long-lasting Medallion TL gives you the confidence and peace of mind that your turf is safely protected.

The fludioxonil in Medallion TL is the ONLY Contact⁺ active – targeting disease on the leaf AND in the thatch.



FIND HOW IT FITS IN YOUR FUNGICIDE PROGRAMME BTME STAND 428

Hedges Direct

Hedges Direct are specialist suppliers of hedging, pleached and ornamental trees, living screens, topiary and turf. With decades of experience in the horticultural industry and a culture firmly focused on quality and service, we are able to supply specimen plants for any size project, all with an industry leading delivery turnaround.

Our many species of hedging plants are available in all root types and sizes from 10cm to 9m. From simple and economical bare roots to potted hedging plants which are available year-round, garden sized or towering extra-tall root balls to the hugely impressive instant hedging troughs which form a complete hedge immediately on planting, we can supply any and all hedging requirements.

Hedges Direct are also Pleached Tree specialists. Known as hedging on stilts, pleached trees are expertly grown and crafted over a number of years utilising a network of canes to create a high-level green screen on a long clear stem. Ideal for providing planting with exquisite impact and shade from the sun, these impressive trees are increasingly popular in modern landscape design and used in innovative or traditional aspects to achieve a truly stunning yet practical application.

Our expert sales and service team are available 6 days a

week, offering bespoke quotes, expert advice and exclusive trade discounts with a range of delivery options. With our own plant nursery and an extensive network of growers across the UK and Europe, we have a proud history of delivering both exceptional products and excellent service to all our customers.

For more information: www.hedgesdirect.co.uk
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syngenta.



Brownie points for sustainability

Washed sugar beet awaiting processing

British Sugar TOPSOIL

Each year in the UK, thousands of tonnes of soil is washed from vegetables and other root crops before they reach supermarket shelves and food processing businesses.

But at a time when environmental sustainability should inform the decisions we make, have you ever wondered what happens to that soil?

At British Sugar, National TOPSOIL Manager Andy Spetch realised he could convert the fertile soil washed off the sugar beet into environmentally sustainable products for the golfing industry.

In the early days of product development, over 20 years ago, he worked with leading soil scientist Tim O'Hare of Tim O'Hare Associates to design a British Standard-compliant sandy loam topsoil for general landscaping projects. Instead of washing away the 200,000 tonnes of prime arable topsoil that adheres to the sugar beet brought in by farmers to British Sugar's UK factories each year, it is now used in a range of TOPSOIL products that are specified and used by the construction industry, landscape contractors, groundsmen and greenkeepers at locations across the Midlands, London, and the South East.



Tee construction using TOPSOIL product

The manufacturing process

Between September and February the sugar beet arrives at British Sugar's factories in Newark, Nottinghamshire and Wigginton, Bury St Edmunds and Cantley in East Anglia. The soil is washed off the beet, aggregate larger than 2mm is removed, and the soil is then pumped into large settlement lagoons where it remains until being excavated during the spring and summer. It is then spread onto land adjacent to the lagoons where, over a two-year period, it is regularly turned by excavators and cultivators to enable the sun and wind to dry it out.

Once dry, the soil undergoes a final blending process to produce British Sugar TOPSOIL's range of products, including Landscape20 BS3882:2015-compliant topsoil for bunker construction, general landscaping and turfing, and Sports&Turf for tee construction and the topdressing of tees and fairways.

Once blended, TOPSOIL products are stored under cover to ensure there is no physical degradation or depletion of nutrients and that they spread easily once delivered to site.

Trialling and analysis

British Sugar TOPSOIL realised early on the importance of demonstrating that its products are safe to use in any environment, that they are physically consistent, and that they are efficacious and fit for purpose.

Working together with our partners





Sports&Turf 80/20 topdressing, for example, is designed for use in reputation-critical environments such as golf courses and sports pitches. Prior to its release it underwent two replicated scientific trials — one on golf tee turf and one on fairway turf – at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) in Bingley, West Yorkshire, to ensure it would perform to the exacting standards required by golf greenkeeping professionals. The trials were overseen by soil scientist Dr Christian Spring whose report and conclusions provide end users with reassurance of Sports&Turf's performance and efficacy.

All TOPSOIL products are independently tested and analysed by Tim O'Hare Associates. Visual assessment to determine the presence

of stones, weeds, roots or rhizomes of pernicious weeds is followed by the regular and frequent testing of soil samples by a UKAS and MCERTS-accredited laboratory to confirm the composition and fertility of the soil and the absence of physical and chemical contaminants.

As an absolute minimum all topsoil should meet the requirements of British Standard 3882:2015 for topsoil. British Sugar TOPSOIL products are tested over and above this minimum requirement, with the following parameters measured:

- particle size analysis and stone content
- pH value
- electrical conductivity values (CaSO₄ and water extracts)
- major plant nutrients (N, P, K, Mg)
- organic matter content

- heavy metals (As, Ba, Br, Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb, Hg, Ni, Se, V, Zn, B)
- soluble sulphate, elemental sulphur, acid volatile sulphide
- total cyanide and total (mono) phenols
- total petroleum hydrocarbons (C₁₀-C₄₀)
- speciated PAHs (US EPA16 suite)
- aromatic and aliphatic TPH (C₅-C₃₅ banding)
- BTex
- asbestos

Test results are presented in a Certificate of Analysis, supported by a full interpretation of the findings. In addition, all TOPSOIL production sites are inspected on a biennial basis and, at the last inspection, were certified completely free of Japanese knotweed and horsetail.

Technical support

The TOPSOIL sales team, led by agronomist Andy Spetch, receives ongoing technical training so that they can provide informed and pertinent advice. The website at www.bstopsoil.co.uk carries comprehensive technical information in the form of free downloads of technical guides, case studies, and The Essential Guide to Top Dressing. A new online video on the home page shows the manufacturing process in action, and the easy-to-use product-specific online product calculator helps greenkeepers manage their budgets.



Settlement lagoon

Insight

The science of modern greenkeeping

Coverage counts for contact activity

Syngenta Technical Manager, Glenn Kirby, reviews some of the latest research on contact fungicide targets and application, to maintain better turf quality through to the spring.

Fungicides with contact activity have an essential role in preventing damaging disease outbreaks. They can create a first line of defence on the leaf surface to stop disease at the very early stage.

The effects are most relevant in cool conditions, when turf plants are physiologically inactive, when any systemic fungicide active would be slow to be taken up or moved around to tackle infection points.

To get the best from contact activity, complete coverage on the leaf surface is crucial to prevent microscopic disease spores from germinating and stop mycelial growth from getting into the plant, typically through stomata or any physical damage to the leaf.

Elements that will influence leaf coverage include: the active ingredient itself; the formulation of the fungicide; the mix in the spray tank and, extremely importantly, the operator's application technique.

Formulation matters

During the manufacturing process, most fungicide actives are milled and ground to produce finer particles. Each time the diameter is halved, you get eight times the number of particles, which can help to deliver more even surface coverage. However, it is a costly and slow process, which is typically only justified on higher quality, high value, turf-specific formulations.



Plate 1. The finely milled formulation of Medallion TL (left) is better able to bind onto the wax layer of the leaf surface to provide seamless coverage, compared to blocky particles of an iprodione fungicide, for example.

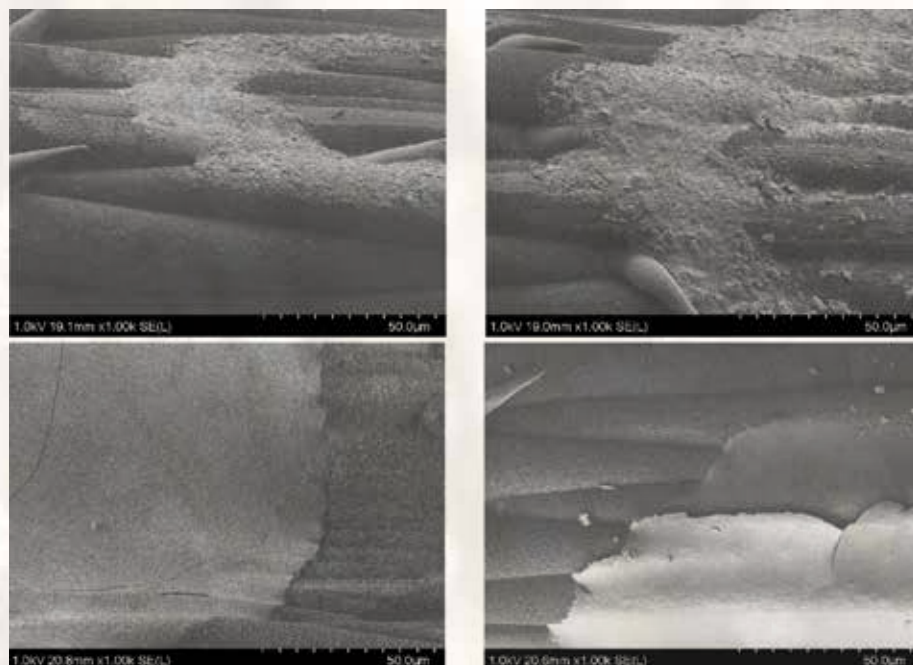


Plate 2. Under electron microscopy analysis the addition of Qualibra in tank-mix with Medallion TL (lower images) appears to give greater spread and coverage from a single droplet, compared to Medallion TL alone (top images)

Electron microscope analysis of leaf surface coverage with the Medallion TL formulation of fludioxonil

shows the even spread on the surface, compared to a blocky formulation of an iprodione fungicide (Plate 1).

The formulation of any product also includes a blend of surfactants and adjuvants 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 UK research at the Syngenta Jealott's Hill International Research Centre is looking at how tank-mix partners could potentially further improve spray retention and coverage to target spores on the leaf surface.

What has already been seen with the trials and analysis of leaf samples after spraying was that Qualibra wetting agent added to the tank-mix had a positive effect in both surface coverage on the leaf and in the leaf wax, compared to

Medallion TL sprayed alone (Plate 2).

Trials results showed 5% to 15% greater total recovery of fludioxonil from the surface, wax and tissue in the first hours and day after application with Medallion TL and Qualibra tank mix, compared to the sprayed with the fungicide alone (Figure 3).

Further research will continue to evaluate and quantify the potential benefit in terms of improvements in disease control on turf, as well as to fully understand how it can be developed for better bespoke solutions and recommendations for the future.

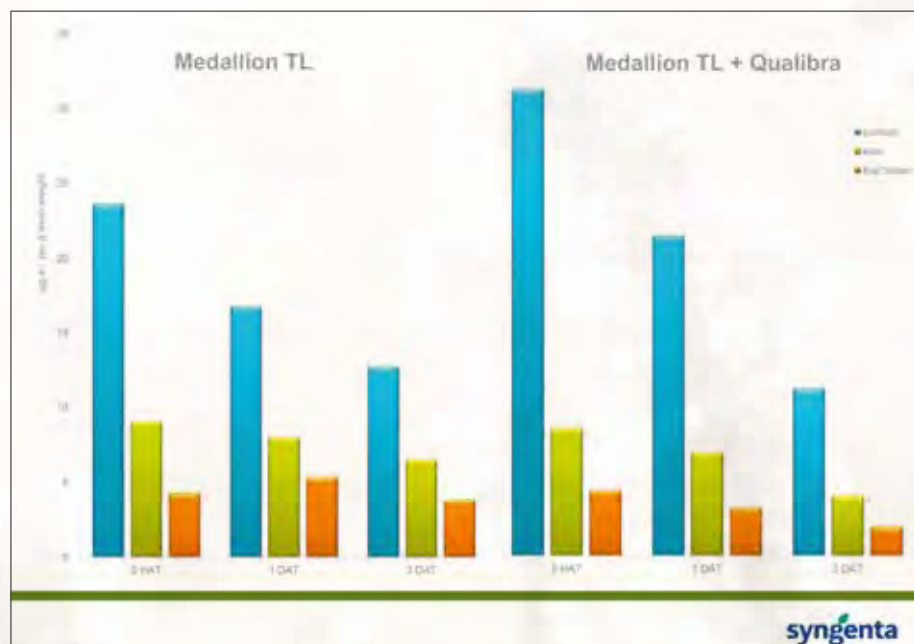


Figure 3. Laboratory trials have shown greater initial recovery of active fludioxonil after application when Medallion TL was sprayed in tank-mix with Qualibra, compared to Medallion TL alone

Leave cutting for longer protection

Contact activity is most appropriate for winter months, when growth is slower and protection typically stays in place on the leaf surface for longer.

However, due to generally warmer weather in winter and the need to provide good surfaces year round, course managers tend to be cutting greens more regularly than previously through the winter.

With this in mind, aim to put on your contact fungicide applications after mowing, to maximise the efficacy of the product and the length of time that it will remain in place.

Disease forecasting and assessment of ITM risks can also help to make more effective spray timing decisions.

Find out more about Proactive Fungicide Programme Planning and application advice on Syngenta stand 428 in the BTME Purple Zone

Application on Target

Spray techniques could have a huge influence in achieving good surface coverage with all products, especially contact fungicides. Nozzle selection, water volume and operation all have significant effects — with Syngenta XC Nozzles, typically operated at 250 l/ha, designed to give optimum results from Medallion TL applications under most conditions.

The next Greenkeeper International InSight feature will cover more on application research and advice.



Scotland & Northern Ireland



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East

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It has been a busy time for the section with our AGM at Gogarburn.

A big thank you to the club for looking after us all. We braved the weather and there were some great scores. Course knowledge played a part, with Bob Marshall winning the Jimmy Neilson Trophy. Closest to the pin was Phil Butler and longest drive was Shaun Cunningham.

It was the end of Phil Butler's reign as chairman and so thank you for all his hard work. As one reign ends, another begins as I take over the chairman's role. My first protocol was the patron's dinner at the Royal Hotel in the Bridge of Allan.

We presented Keith Burgeon an award for his dedication to our section. It was a great day and a big thank you to John Young for organising.



Central

Craig Boath

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Hope you all had a great Christmas and best wishes to you all in 2019. Time to work off that turkey!

Not long now before Harrogate so hopefully catch up with many of you down there.

We have a few things lined up in the way of educational events this year but again if you want to see anything added or know of someone who would like to talk on a subject please let us know.

I would like to thank all our sponsors for their continued support in 2018 and wish them all the best for 2019.



North

Neil Sadler

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The start of a new year brings new hopes and new starts.

Fingers crossed that the best of 2018 is the worst of 2019!

As 2018 disappears into the memories, we can reflect on a pretty tough year. With a cold harsh winter and a non-existent spring, then on to a hot, dry

summer, I can't but wonder what 2019 has in store for us.

I recently attended the annual awards lunch at Bridge of Allan, where all the regional patron winners were presented with their awards. Our winner was Graham Burnett. Graham works at Nairn Dunbar and is a very worthy winner. Part of Graham's prize is a trip down to BTME, where he will attend several seminars and enjoy the exhibition.

Recently the North of Scotland held two education days. The first was held at Portlethen, where we had 40 members turn up to hear six excellent speakers. The speakers were Sandy Armit from Double A Trading company, Robert Patterson from Royal Aberdeen, Jamie Lees from ICL, Carolyn Hedley from Scottish Golf, Kenny Liddel and Paul Sharp from GroGreen and Les Rae from Montrose Links. Every speaker delivered a great speech that was very educational and informative.

The second education day was up in the highlands at Nairn Dunbar, where they had 35 members turn up to hear Archie Dunn from Auchterarder, Karl Parry from Sherriff Amenity, John Young from BIGGA, Carolyn Hedley and Grant Frogley from G-West. Once again the members were very well educated and informed. After the success of these two days and the other events around the country, we are all hoping these one-day educational seminars are going to be an annual event.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Craig MacEachen on becoming the new deputy course manager at Murcar Links.



SW Scotland

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The section would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! Hope you all enjoyed the Christmas and New Year period and managed to get some well-deserved time off.

On 7 December, BIGGA held its Scottish Awards, where Scott Corrigan from Royal Troon received the SWS 2018 Patron Award. Congratulations Scott.

The SWS AGM was held on 26 November at Irvine Bogside. I appreciate that it is a difficult time of year to attend as your courses can be very busy undertaking their winter projects, but thanks to everyone who was there.

It was announced that Amanda Dorans will be taking over as chair this year from Richard Fulton. A big thanks to Richard for all his hard work over the past year. The other positions for this year are as follows: Vice chair, Stewart Brown, Western Gailes; Secretary, Jim Paton, West Kilbride; Education officer, Allan Paterson, Trump Turnberry; Communications officer, Robert Tosh, Kilmarnock Barassie; Board member, Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside; Board member, Iain Barr, Largs; Board member, Frank Clarkson, Dundonald Links; Patron representative, Graeme King, Hugh King Sands; Past chair/golf rep, Richard Fulton. I hope you will all show your support to the elected representatives of your section and I hope to see you at various events throughout 2019.



West

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The West Section had its annual Christmas night out on Friday 30 November. It was very well attended and I would just like to thank everyone involved in organising it as it was a great night (as usual)!

The BIGGA Scotland awards lunch was held on Wednesday 5 December at the Bridge of Allan Hotel. I was lucky enough to have been awarded the West Section Patrons Award and I am now looking forward to heading to Harrogate for BTME. I would also like to congratulate all the other fellow winners from each section.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and here's to a great 2019! Hope to see some of you in January at BTME 2019.



Northern Ireland

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Bad luck to Jon Crawford, who is currently doing the Ohio State Program in America.

Jon was volunteering at the Hero World Challenge when he got the opportunity to take a selfie with Tiger Woods.

Unfortunately he didn't quite get the photograph he was after! See page 28 for the full story.

Thank you
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Section News

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

Email your news to
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**Cleveland
Anthony McGeough**
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The Cleveland section Christmas bring a bottle team event was held at the fantastic Cleveland GC and sponsored by Northern Lubricants and Services.

Two points separated 4th to 2nd, but the winners finished 23pts from second.

The AGM was held after the golf and Dan Egan and Dave Jobey joined the ranks to help out with the running of the section. A meeting will be organised in the new year to allocate roles. During the AGM we realised Ian Pemberton had been doing the role of secretary for 10 years which, with the pressures of being a course manager, football coach and holiday reviewer, is a huge achievement. The section is lucky to have him.

A return go karting fixture against the North East is being held at Middlesbrough outdoor race track. We are thinking spring 2019 as I don't think go karts have winter tyres!



**North West
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It was the first cold day of winter, but Wilmslow was an absolute treat thanks to Steve Outtram and the team.

Our sincere thanks to and all the staff for welcoming us for the Bert Cross Memorial Trophy and AGM sponsored by Campey Turfcare. The winner was Scott Rigby with a score of 40 points. Runner up was Callum Goodhind with 39 points and third went to Scott Thomas with 37 points. Brendan Heywood won nearest the pin on the 9th and Neil Gravener won longest drive on the 12th.

Our conference is being held at Leyland Golf Club on 27 February 2019.



**North East
Paul Walton**
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Early in December, Dunstanburgh Castle hosted the annual bring a bottle day.

The winners with 59.5 was Mark Hollingsworth, Whitley Bay, Stephen Virtue, Burgham Park, and Stephen

Skachill, Ramside.

Stuart Imeson and Jack Hetherington will stepping down from the section with immediate effect. I would like to thank them both for their hard work over the years and wish them the best of luck. Jack is becoming Chairman of the Northern Section. Mark Hollingsworth, Whitley Bay, will take over as chairman and Grant Burton, Whitley Bay, will be joining the committee.

Well done to Steven Edgar from Whickham who passed his NVQ Level 2.

Congratulations to Karl Hollingsworth, George Washington GC, and his girlfriend for the birth of their son Max.

James Thorpe, previously of Dunstanburgh Castle, has been given a great opportunity to work at Kingston Heath in Australia. Stu and his team at Dunstanburgh would like to thank everyone who supported the bunker camp, with special thanks to Jonathan Gaunt and Geoff Lowes, Greenlay.

It been a busy few weeks at Tynemouth, with Ian and his team completing drainage work on five holes. Also one of their team, Connor Turnbull, started his NVQ level 2 at Askham Bryan.



**Yorkshire
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1 May we visit Scarcroft. Details to follow, but it will be a 1pm tee.

24 July we visit Otley. This is to be our first invitation day event for a number of years. Again details to follow as we get things organised, but we are looking at a more traditional day with a meal following the golf. Both events will be priced at £20 per player.

18 September we visit Bingley St Ives. Details to follow. £20.

The recent course walks have been well attended and big thanks go to all who supported them and Sandra Raper for the organisation. One positive that was come from the walks is the obvious enthusiasm for more education events, especially from some of our younger members. James Dawson has taken this on and is looking to sort some events in the new year. Just stay away from bunker tops James!

Best of luck to Craig Sanderson of Hollins Hall, who I'm told is off to pastures new. And it's good to hear that Andy Fowler is back at the helm at Garforth after his recent operation.



**Sheffield
Adrian Keys**
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com

It is with great regret that I have to announce the very sad and untimely passing at the young age of 48 of Jamie Hobson, head greenkeeper at Stocksbridge. Jamie began his association with the Sheffield Section and greenkeeping back in 1986, when he joined Leeshall on the YTS scheme and moved on to become head greenkeeper at Stocksbridge in 2003.

Our heartfelt condolences are sent to his wife Nicola and his two boys, Logan and Kavana, at this very sad time.

On 6 December at Worksoop our Christmas competition took place. The competition took on the form of a team event again this year and thanks to the 30-plus players who turned up.

Results: 1st, Steve Pickering, Mark Morgan, Mark Crawshaw and Steve Redhall, 86pts; 2nd, Mark Blackman, Neil Bishop and Paul Hobson; Nearest the pin on 11th, Andy Unwin, and on 18th, Chris Manthorpe.

Following the golf was a fantastic Christmas dinner and the AGM. All current officials were re-elected to the committee and our thanks go to them for making the section run so smoothly.



**North Wales
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We held our Christmas get-together and AGM at The Caernarfonshire, Conwy, on 5 December. Thanks go out to the greenstaff at Conwy for a super course as they prepare for the 2020 Curtis Cup. Marc and the lads, take a bow. Results: 1st, Slicers and Dicers, James Hampson, Ricard Walker, Mike Burton and HG Wells; 2nd, Weapons of Grass Destruction, Marcus Gilbert, Paul Davies, Carl Crocher and Steve Gray; Nearest the pin, 6th Alan Kelsall with a '2'; 15th, Macey Roberts, 'no.2!' and James also had his customary '2'.

Future events. The annual conference at Deeside College is in half term week, February. Open days at Charlie's new showroom. 100th anniversary of seed production at Ibis at Aberystwyth, then there are your golf days in 2019.



Section News

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

Email your news to
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So this is our last post from 2018 and what a year it's been.

We have had such great support for the section this year, with four fantastic golf days. Three of them had over 50 players with over 100 different members attending.

The fourth and final golf day was the Syngenta ACL-sponsored Turkey Trot at the lovely Frilford Heath. This sold out fast, with 22 teams. That's 88 players and again some more new attendees.

The day started off on the cold side with a sharp frost so we greenkeepers were playing on temporary greens. I must say that playing to a bucket hole on a temp is far more fun than playing to a normal size hole on a frosty green.

The course was prepared in fantastic condition for us and all seemed to have a good day, albeit a little cold at times. My golf was not worth talking about but there was some great scores that came in. Taking third place was Harewood 1 with a net score of 53.8, bagging a £25 voucher each. 2nd was team Radley with 53.7, winning a £50 voucher each. And in first prize, winning a £75 voucher and a turkey, was team Lister Wilder with an outstanding 52.6.

We can't thank ICL and Syngenta enough for sponsoring this event, we really do appreciate it.

Just after the dinner and before the prizegiving we presented Sid Arrowsmith MG with his "favourite medicine" (a quote from himself) of a box of very nice red wine. Sid has now retired from greenkeeping and will be truly missed in the industry.

We invited Peter Sands up to claim his prize for winning the Banks Amenity Order of Merit and also the three way tie for second of Adam King, Dan Allsworth and Matt Aplin. Some great golf played by you guys last year. Thanks again to Simon Banks for sponsoring the order of merit again last year.

We closed the day with our raffle that was mainly filled out with alcohol and golf gear again sponsored by ICL and Syngenta.

From the committee we would all like to wish everyone all the best in 2019.



**Mid Anglia
Darren Mugford**

d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com



**East of England
Robert Bemment**

r088emo@hotmail.com



**Midland
Glen Howard**

howie8447@sky.com

The Midland Section/Rigby Taylor sponsored education and accommodation for BTME 2019 was won by Ed Beard, Walmley, and Ryan Neal, Droitwich.

Congratulations to both, who provided excellent applications for this annual event.

We encourage all young greenkeepers to apply for BTME 2020. Details will be sent out in the autumn.

The Christmas tournament at Copt Heath, sponsored by Banks Amenity, was won by Jack Cornes and Steve Clements with a score of 38 points. 2nd: Jim Gilchrist & Harvey Brooke, 37pts (on countback). 3rd, Dale Housden and Wayne Mulrooney, 37 pts.

Thank you to Simon for providing some great prizes and also to Jeremy and his team for a brilliant course set up.

2019 golf dates: Spring tournament, 15 May, Leamington; Summer team event, 9 Oct, Moseley; Christmas event, TBC.



**East Midlands
Paul Fowkes**

[@pazza20001](#)
pazza20001@gmail.com

A Happy New Year to you all, I hope your Christmas and New Year's break has been good.

Our Christmas golf day took place at Charnwood Forest.

Results: 1st, Steve and Paul French, Beedles Lake, 47pts; 2nd, Dan Branson and James Wheatley, Stanton on the Wolds, 45pts; 3rd, Alan Mitchell and Rob Duval, Scraftoft, 44pts.

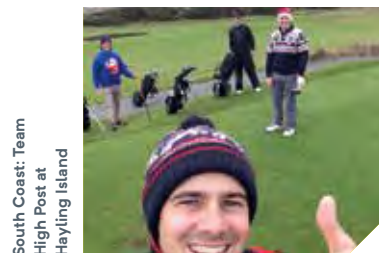
A massive thank you to Tim and all the



East Midlands: Christmas winners
Steve and Paul French



Midland: Christmas winners Jack
Cornes and Steve Clements



South Coast: Team
High Post at
Hayling Island



South Coast: The winning team
from Stoneham

staff at Charnwood for hosting us and feeding us a lovely Christmas meal. Another massive thank you to James and Lee and all at Henton & Chattell for sponsoring the event.

We have a number of great golf and educational days in the planning for 2019. If anyone wants to suggest anything or put their course forward for an event, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the committee.

You can stay up to date of everything on our social media on Facebook at BIGGA East Midlands or on Twitter @biggaeastmids.

I will have hopefully seen many of you at BTME 2019 which will no doubt be a great week of education and networking.

I would also recommend BIGGA's podcast, which is a great listen and I am sure you will get a lot from it. It's called The Green Room Sports Turf Podcast and is available online now.

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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

Steve Lloyd

07578 276082 | [@GreensMalvern](#)
coursemanager@theworkersshire
golfclub.co.uk



Membership Services Manager

Tracey Walker

07841 948110 | [@biggaswsw](#)
tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk



South West Dave Taylor

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

Hoping you had a great Christmas and are feeling refreshed for the New Year.

In comparison to the previous few years, I feel we have been on a good run with the weather. Long may it continue.

In December the South West held their Christmas golf day at Burnham & Berrow. This was the second time in three years that this event has been held here and we still attracted big numbers. For us the Christmas golf day is always a very popular event and has always had great support from BIGGA members, secretaries and also non-members, who we hope after a great day will soon follow up by joining BIGGA.

As with any event, a special thank you has to go to Burnham for hosting us again and thank you to Richard and his team for presenting a fantastic course. Also without the continued support of our patrons we would not be able to have these events as there funding helps towards breakfast rolls, raffles and continued education. So a big thank you to everyone involved.

A thanks you also to the committee, who this year have really pushed our section forward and have some great ideas for 2019. Everyone on the committee gives up their free time to help organise and plan these events and deserves a massive pat on the back for all their hard work.

Back to the golf and this year we held it as a team format. The winners were Team Bath with an incredible 84pts. Second was Team Oake Manor with 80pts. Nearest the pin was Tom Workman of Minchinhampton. Longest drive was Dan Norsworthy of Bath. These prizes were supplied by TAG, our patrons. For the day we had 36 golfers and a further eight in the evening for the meal and raffle.

In regards to the raffle, we raised over £100, which the committee donated to Alder Hey Children's Hospital.



South Coast Jim Fancey

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

Where on earth has this year gone?

I'm still trying to get my head around it being December and by the time this latest article gets published it'll be 2019 and in touching distance of BTME.

I'm really looking forward to BTME again. It'll be great to catch up with friends, with some exciting workshops and seminars on offer again.

I must admit it is so satisfying and I feel really proud of our industry, seeing all the hard work on social media put in by so many greenkeepers up and down the country. Some of the bunker, tee rebuilds, drainage and tree management work is just fantastic. I hope the Christmas period allowed for some much needed rest and time out.

The South Coast Section held its annual Turkey Trot at Hayling Island on 5 December. It was pretty much a full field for this Texas Scramble event, with a shotgun start commencing at 11.30am. The forecasted weather didn't look kind, but the wind and rain held off until the afternoon.

The course played so well and was in magnificent shape. Full credit to Greig Easton and his team for all their efforts in the build up and on the day.

Nearest the pin was won by Jack McKay and the winner of the longest drive, with an absolute monster on the 18th, was Henry Aggar.

Team results: 1st, Stoneham; 2nd, Team Turf Care; 3rd, WeAreBroc.

Many thanks to everyone who attended and well played to Stoneham.

I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported our events this year. Your support for our section's events has been absolutely fantastic.

Our next event will be our seminar at Salisbury and South Wiltshire on 26 February.

Information on this will be published early next year, so keep an eye on our Twitter feed and your emails for details.

All the best for 2019.



South Wales Tom Howells

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Now that all the festivities are over, it's time to start all over again! Many thanks to all who have supported the section over the year.

The Christmas golf day at Pyle & Kenfig was well supported and plenty

turned out for the day. Third was James Rees with 34 points. second was Dale Sullivan with 35 and the winner was Craig Sherman with 39pts. Thanks to all that attended and managed to raise £100 for the benevolent fund.

The section has had a good year and wants to follow it up with another good one. Plenty of golf days and other events are needing support in more ways than just attendance, such as raffle prizes and just generally supporting the events.

Let me know if there are any stories or anything that you would like including in the section's Around the Green. See you all next month!



Devon & Cornwall Neil Rogers

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nrogers@advance
grass.com

It has been a busy month for the section with two meetings having taken place.

The first took place at Churston where we were shown around by Course Manager Kelvin Miller. Kelvin has been at Churston for over 20 years and has the added pressure of having previous incumbent Gordon Child as a member. Rope capillary drainage had been carried out last year, which was explained in detail and shown where it had been placed. The course was in good condition and that was shown in the scoring by those playing.

Results: 1st, Mark Jerrett and Rich Simmonds, Teignmouth; 2nd, Dave Chammings and Steve Briggs; 3rd, Sam Dunn and Curt Small, Stover.

The Christmas meeting was held at Newquay. As always the meeting was well-supported, with course manager Dan Kendle leading a course walk and the rest playing the course. Dan talked about the improvements that he has carried out in the four years he has been there. As always DGM provided the refreshments at the halfway house which was well received.

Results: 1st, Kelvin Millar, Ashley Millar and Dave Hiscock, Churston; 2nd, committee team of Jason Brookes, James Williams and Chris Hale; 3rd, Ollie Tanton, Christy Worthington and Dave Timms; Longest drive, Will Hutchinson; Nearest the pin, Ashley Millar. The raffle raised £100 for the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

As always the section would like to thank our patrons for their continued support.

Section News

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

Email your news to
karl@bigga.co.uk



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I wish you all the best in 2019 and the upcoming season. I for one am moving positively forward into the New Year and looking forward to my first spring as head greenkeeper at Chestfield.

Our first event in 2019 will be our Partners Educational day, to be held at Princes Late Feb early March.

This will be a fantastic free day for BIGGA members of Kent to interact with our S.E Partners and gain some useful information leading into the new season.

More information will be emailed to everyone in the new year.

Look out on the BIGGA Website for Anthony Stockwell's winter educational events at Hadlow too.

For all those going to BTME have a great time. And for all those unable to attend then I suggest you join us at Princes for our Partners Day instead.



East Anglia
Mike Virley
@BIGGAEastAnglia
mikevirley@sky.com

Hi all, hope you had a good Christmas and New Year.

The Turkey Trot and AGM was the last meeting of the year on 5 December, held at Thorpeness.

There was a good turnout with 20 teams of four playing the usual Texas Scramble format. The main sponsor of the day was CMW.

Results: 1st, Rushmere, Michael Buck, Kelvin Vince, D Driver, P Smyth, 61 gross, 56.7 nett; 2nd, Ufford Park, Adrian Hollis, Mike Virley, George Butters, Karl Harvey, 63 gross, 56.7 net; 3rd, Ernest Doe, Eddie Jack, Stuart Paterson, Chas Ayles, Andy Turbyn, 66 gross, 60.2 nett; 4th, Thorpeness, Peter Howard, Aaron Newton, Brian Lindores, Roger Brown, 67 gross, 60.8 nett; 5th, Stowmarket, Andy Howarth, Jamie Gill, Matt Gill, Antony Kirwan, 65 gross, 61.2 nett.

Sponsor of nearest the pins was Greensman. Winner on 2nd, Lance Wright; 7th, Matt Gill; 10th, Ed Pickford; 16th, Graham Hurren.

Batrams looked after the halfway hut providing refreshments.

After the AGM we enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner and then a presentation, with Ian Willet being presented with an engraved salver to mark his 20 years as secretary of the East Anglia Section.

Tony Thacker received a trophy for winning the inaugural order of merit.

Steve Crabb and Nick Staff received cheques towards a scholarship.

Thanks again for Thorpeness and all the other trade that have supported the section this year, see you all in 2019.



Essex
Wayne Wilson
@essexbigga
wayne@
cmwequipment.co.uk

December 4 saw our final golfing event of the season.

A good turnout played Team Texas Scramble at the excellent Orsett.

Winners were Rivenhall Oaks with a net 57, closely followed by The Warren with a net 57.6. Hosts Orsett came in a respectable 3rd with a net 58.

Longest drive was won by Ross Surridge of Boyce Hill and Straightest Drive by Steve Cousins from Chelmsford. There were four nearest the pin holes and these were won by Jack Battersby (Rivenhall Oaks), David Briffaut (Boyce Hill), Peter Preston (Wanstead) and Stuart Playle (Colchester).

Congratulations must go to the Golfer of the Year, Callum Smith from The Essex Golf & Country Club and the Trade Golfer of the Year, Jon Selwood from Avoncrop Amenity.

The AGM was held before the golf and a very special thanks must go to Michael Fance who steps down from the committee after three years' hard work organising golf events. We welcome Andy Harding who replaces him. I have taken up the post of ATG writer and look forward to supplying you all with the news from the Section. Tom Smith continues as section secretary and treasurer and Martin Forrester continues as section chairman.

Lastly, Tom Smart, course manager at The Warren, will be leaving on 21 December to take up a new post in the New Year as course manager at Bury St.

Edmonds. We wish him all the best in his new position.



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

The section held it's final golf event of the year at Porters Park with the annual Turkey Trot event.

The course as ever was presented superbly by Martin and his team and everyone was well looked after by the clubhouse staff.

The sponsors for the event, Ernest Doe's, laid on a fantastic prize table and generous raffle prize donations meant nearly everyone went home with something.

Results: 1st, Hadley Wood; 2nd, Hendon; 3rd, Ernest Doe; 4th, Muswell Hill; Nearest the pin, Ryan Bezzant; Longest drive, Ryan Careford.

Next date in the diary is the Oaklands Seminar on Tuesday 12 February 2019.



Sussex
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turf-care.co.uk

The section held it AGM on 20 November at Bognor Regis.

The election of the committee is: Chairman, vacant; Secretary, George Morley; Treasurer, Pete Smith; Education, Joe Dormer; committee members, Chris Humphrey, Darren Savage and Anthony Duffield.

The AGM was followed by a sponsors day at Bognor Regis. A big thanks to the club members and to Rob Brown for allowing us to use the course for demonstrations and take over the clubhouse for presentations.

On a very wet Friday on 7 December the section held the Turkey Trot at the glorious Worthing GC. Such was the volume and velocity of the rain that we had to have an hour and a half delay to the start. Despite the horrendous weather everyone had a great day. The course was in fantastic condition. Thanks to George and his team who had worked in the downpour to set the course up for us, it was amazing just how quickly the floodwater on the greens drained.

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Assistant Greenkeeper Position Royal Wimbledon Golf Club

Royal Wimbledon Golf Club is recruiting for an Assistant Greenkeeper. Applicants should be qualified to level 2 in greenkeeping with spraying and chainsaw certificates an advantage but not essential.

The candidate should have a strong team orientation, work ethic and good communication skills. Additionally they should have a passion for presenting surfaces of the highest quality for our private membership.

The successful applicant will receive a competitive salary and benefits package including further training and will report to the Course Manager and his Deputy.

Salary expectations are up to £23,800 p.a. + Incremental additions + Overtime based on qualifications and experience.

To apply for this position or seek more information please email Nick Paris, Course Manager at nickp@rwgc.co.uk.



Seasonal Assistant Greenkeepers Golf and Country Club nr Genk

Seasonal Assistant Greenkeepers required. Golf and Country Club nr Genk, Belgium. From March 2019

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Requirements: We require motivated, friendly Greenkeepers who are ambitious to work overseas. Own transport is highly desirable but not essential.

You will need to be able to start from March 2019 and depending on the weather stay until Oct/Nov.

Package: Minimum pay €16.50 per hour. 40 hours plus per week are available. Assistance with accommodation can be provided.

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Kibworth GC,
Leicestershire

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Candidates will ideally possess the following key attributes:

- NVQ level 3 in sports turf management and an aim to continue their further education
- A full range of practical green keeping qualifications, spraying/chainsaw etc
- The ability to manage and motivate and develop fellow team members
- Budget preparation and control
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- Excellent record keeping
- A sound knowledge and experience of H&S Risk and COSHH assessment relating to golf course operations
- A good working knowledge of drainage and irrigation systems, including repair and maintenance
- The ability to manage and organise a progressive golf course maintenance programme

Reply in the first instance with CV and covering letter to:
Wendy Quilter, Club Secretary, Kibworth Golf Club Ltd, Weir Road,
Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicester LE8 0LP

Greenkeeper | Verden Golf Club

Verden Golf Club, Germany, was built in 1988 as a 18 hole course and was expanded to 27 holes in 2014. We are looking for a hardworking, ambitious and self-motivated greenkeeper to join our team. This would be a great experience and opportunity for the successful candidate to start or continue their international career.

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If interested please E-Mail your C.V with a cover letter to: Adam Fraser, head greenkeeper: greenkeeping@gc-verden.de. Interviews will be held over phone. I will also be attending BTME 22 and 23 January so hope to set up some interviews for those days if possible.

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Germinal



Around the Globe

Frank Czarnietzki | Golfclub Maria Bildhausen eV, Germany

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

Germany has a lot of rules and regulations we have to follow. We even have the "Fasching" (carnival). It's a time you are supposed to have fun and you're allowed to laugh. I think that is typical German!

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

The course is built on 110ha. There is a lot of room between the holes so it's very quiet for the golfers. It's an open area with wonderful views around Franconia. From the championship tee it's 6,463m long. The signature hole is no 6, a par-5 with a half island green.

How does greenkeeping in Germany vary from the UK?

I think the rules of using fungicide and other chemicals are still different.

What is the best part about living in Germany?

Well, since I live in Bavaria I must say it's the beer!

How does the weather affect your work?

My course is located in the north of Bavaria in Franconia. It's very, very dry. We are getting about 600mm of rain per year.

The last few springs were very

dry, so the start of the growing season is always very difficult, with no natural water.

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

I think there are boars. Sometimes they damage a few fairways and it's a lot of work to replace the damage.

What is your club management structure like?

It's a member's club with a regular club committee. The whole course belongs to a private person who is also a member here in the club. It's good to know that there is somebody who really cares about his property and is also very interested in developing the course and his facilities in the future.

What is the public perception of golf in Germany?

In Germany golf is still something special. It's not like in the UK or America where golf is a "sport". That's why it's still very hard to find people who play golf. We are getting more and more good German players in the European Tour and I hope in the future that will help us excite more people to play golf.

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

I was very interested to visit the exhibition in Harrogate and also to join some of the seminars.



Images of the course

As a member it was very easy to pre-book seminars and visit BTME. I was also looking for some new advice from other European greenkeepers.

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

My first head greenkeeper once told me: "Remember it's only grass we are growing, it will always come back."

I think that's the truth and sometimes that gives us a different perspective when we have problems with our turf.

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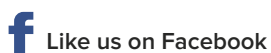


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