Myerscough College is one of the UK’s leading centres of excellence for the delivery of Higher Education courses in Sportsturf and Turfgrass Science. Places are still available on the following programmes starting in September 2008.

- **Foundation Degree in Sportsurf**
  - Full-time or online study

- **BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science**
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TEMPERATURES IN THE WORKPLACE

Now that the great British summer has arrived we hopefully can expect to see better and hotter weather than the last few months. While this is enjoyable during our free time it can cause problems in the workplace, due to a combination of having to do work and the additional heat.

There are no hard and fast rules regarding maximum or minimum temperatures in the workplace only that the temperature is required to be reasonable. As with all modern health and safety issues a risk assessment is required to ensure that workers are not exposed to undue risks and that all reasonable controls have been applied to reduce the risks to as low as reasonably practicable e.g. work in a frozen food premises or a bakery produces a range of temperatures that workers are expected to work in, and the controls to ensure worker’s comfort and safety will necessarily be different.

As a ‘rule of thumb’ reasonable can be interpreted to between 13°C to 28°C depending on the type of work and the working environment. Obviously, where manual work is being carried out the cooler temperatures are more appropriate as opposed to more office type environments where 20°C+ would be more acceptable to employees.

Measures that can be taken to keep the workplace cool and improve employees comfort at work are varied and can be used in combination to achieve an optimum workplace temperature.

Facility - Where possible eliminate unnecessary heat sources in the workplace e.g:

- Low energy light bulbs and fluorescent tubes emit far less heat than normal light fittings
- Halogen lamps emit very high amounts of heat and where possible should remain off
- Solar gain through windows can be reduced by the use of blinds or reflective films
- Electrical equipment when powered, generates heat e.g. computers and old type computer screens will emit heat. When not needed e.g. outwith business hours, they should be switched off.

Increase the ventilation and air movement by:

- Opening windows and doors. Bear in mind that there will be a reduction in security for the premises and appropriate precautions will have to be taken to protect employees and stock.

Where the outside temperature is higher than the workplace, windows and doors are best left closed.

- Portable fans situated around the workplace can provide air movement but not cooling.
- Portable dehumidifiers will provide air movement and drier air which will make the workplace less muggy and feeling fresher.

Business Issues

- During hot weather employees should have access to a supply of cool water or drinks.
- Work routines should be examined to see if tasks can be reorganised to be carried out at the coolest points of the day
- Additional rest breaks may be needed to prevent heat stress
- The dress code of the business should be examined to see if lighter clothing can be worn in an attempt to keep people cool.

However, where protective equipment is required this cannot be dispensed with.

Where all other methods are unable to provide a reasonable temperature in the workplace, air conditioning which provides cool dry air may need to be considered.

Portable and rental units are available from a number of suppliers.

Outdoor Workers

Scope to keep outdoor workers cool is much more limited. Measures that can be taken are restricted to:

- Reorganise work to the coolest times of the day
- Access to shaded areas where breaks can be taken
- Access to cool water or drinks
- Reviewing the dress code to allow lighter clothing to be worn where this doesn’t prejudice any protective equipment required.
- Where applicable air conditioning in cabs of vehicles

Outdoor workers need to be aware of the dangers of skin cancer from exposure to sunshine. Long sleeve clothing and a hat with a neck flap and wide brim offer the best protection. Exposed areas of skin should be covered with sunscreen of at least SP20 or more and applied at regular intervals during the working day.

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The 2008 BIGGA National Golf Championship, sponsored by Kubota, is being played at a fantastic venue which was once looked after by one of BIGGA’s favourite sons.

In the mid-80s East Sussex National was known as one of the first high profile golf clubs, which offered superb facilities for those with pockets deep enough to pay the debenture.

More recently East Sussex National, in greenkeeping circles, was associated with Course Manager, Raymond Day, the larger than life BIGGA Board of Management member whose life was cut short by cancer in January 2007.

It is, therefore, fitting that this October East Sussex National should be the venue for the BIGGA National Golf Championship, sponsored by Kubota, giving BIGGA members the opportunity to see at first hand the course which Ray managed for the final four years of his life and which has since been taken on by Ray’s Deputy, and current Course Manager, Scott Litchfield.

It is a truly majestic golfing venue - two courses, the East and West, were designed by Bob Cupp, a former associate of Jack Nicklaus - which will test the finest golfers BIGGA can muster, but also offer ample opportunities for those who succumb to the challenge to relax and enjoy themselves in sumptuous surroundings.

We will make sure the course is prepared to a standard Ray would be proud of, said Scott, as we sat in the foyer of the superb new hotel which opened in 2006 and which is located on the site of the old maintenance facilities.

BIGGA will play on the East, a stadium course, which hosted the European Open in 1993 and ’94. The West, is regarded as more of a members’ course and is more tree lined.

Scott maintains the two courses in the same manner, treating them very much as 36 holes together rather than two 18s.

“You’ve got to be sensible and utilise the staff as well as you can so it is a lot better to treat it as one big golf course. If a guy goes out cutting the rough he doesn’t just stick to one course he goes around the course using the most economical route.

“We have a lot of competitions and corporate events for which we hand cut. For example we have one of the top amateur events, the Tillman Trophy, and a televised Europro event coming up and we will be hand cutting for them and we will do the same for the BIGGA Championship.”

Scott has recently reintroduced the long fescue rough for which the club was known in its early years and which looked stunning. It had been cut back to help improve the pace of play.

“We decided to surprise the members this
year by leaving the rough to grow and we’ve had nothing but compliments. It is not as close to the fairway as before - we have semi rough and the long stuff is sensibly placed but it does add to the golfing experience.”

The team currently comprises of 21, including two gardeners, plus Archie the dog, a team member so well trained he retracts his claws when walking on greens in canine softspikes!

“I have a superb team. Many of them were here when Ray was in charge so they’ve come through a lot, but they are committed and talented and it is the best team I’ve been involved with,” explained Scott, who just happens to be Archie’s owner.

The other major project the team are currently undertaking is the ongoing renovation of the bunkering and there are over 90 on the East and more than 60 on the West.

When the course was built it was constructed to a high spec, part of which was to put a layer of gravel and then a liner between the sand and the base. Over time these have been repaired and patched up and we have taken the decision to remove all the liners and replace all the drainage.

“It is a project we are carrying out in-house, as we do with most projects, But early on we discovered why they had been built that way. As each winter progresses the clay base turns to liquid and mixes with the sand binding with the bottom layer and, in the summer, cracks, bring parts of the base to the surface through raking.

“It doesn’t happen with every bunker on the site, but it means those that are affected will have to be redone every few years, maybe even relined.”

Scott is 35, but he was several years younger just a few months ago. That was before fusarium made a major strike on the course late last year.

We got it in November and December and it spread across the whole site and every green. We knew why we were susceptible as we have a very low Cation Exchange Capacity - the ability to retain nutrients in the soil and keep the plant healthy leading up to winter, but it was tough to get on top of it. I called on all my contacts within the industry including a consultant, all agreeing we had tried everything we could and should when you get fusarium.

The real problem was trying to get the members to appreciate the situation, as some of them misunderstood completely what they thought it was. Members were searching the internet thinking they could come up with magic answers.

Having come through the nightmare and with a plan in place to build up CEC levels Scott can look back and reflect.

“It certainly made me a better Course Manager and it was probably the first time I really understood the pressures that can be experienced and anyone who thinks it is easy, it is not, said Scott, who has since improved communications with the membership to ensure they are kept informed of course matters.”

Scott found his way into greenkeeping via an unusual route.

“Twas a trainee manager for Tesco but I was fed up with going to work in the dark, coming home in the dark and not seeing any daylight.
So I quit, went to America and skied in Colorado for four months.

“When I came back I didn’t know what I wanted to do so my mother went to the local college and asked what courses were available. There was thatching and greenkeeping and as I didn’t fancy standing off roofs all day I went for greenkeeping.”

Even if it did come from an exasperated mother trying to find some direction for her son she couldn’t have found a better match. Scott took to greenkeeping like a duck to water and never looked back.

The key to his progression came when he worked at Shriwenham Park in Swindon.

“I worked for a great guy called Jason Taylor, who was very focussed and passionate about the industry. He told me that you never get anywhere if you just sit around. You had to move about.”

Scott took Jason at his word and applied for a seasonal job at Loch Lomond, giving up the full time post at Shriwenham.

“ITook a real chance by going to Loch Lomond but after a season Ken Seims offered me a full time position.”

Scott stayed for five years gaining invaluable experience preparing a top 50 golf course for regular televised tournaments rising to become a First Assistant before moving to East Sussex National as Head Greenkeeper of the East Course. There is longstanding link between Loch Lomond and East Sussex with Ken Seims and Mike Wattam both having worked at both clubs before Scott made the same switch.

When Mike left Ray Day took over as Course
Manager with Scott becoming Assistant Course Manager.

“He was a really tough cookie and the hardest boss I’ve ever had. He was very demanding and expected a lot from his guys, but he really did care for his staff and had them very close to his heart, although he didn’t always show it,” said Scott.

The day Ray told everyone of his cancer was one that Scott will never forget.

He insisted on getting everyone together. He stood there and explained the situation. It was very emotional and I had to finish off the meeting for him. You learn how to look after turf, but not how to do these sorts of things. No-one trains you for it.”

Looking to the future Ray sat down with Scott and explained how to do the paperwork side of the job and spent a lot of time preparing Scott for a future that he might not see.

“He achieved a lot in the four years he was at the club and definitely left an improved golf course for me to take on,” said Scott.

It is fitting, therefore, that the 2008 BIGGA Golf Championship, sponsored by Kubota, is played on Ray’s course and that it will be followed the very next day by the Ray Day Memorial Tournament.

“I want everyone to come here and enjoy themselves,” said Scott.

Everyone who knew Ray will know that is exactly what he would have wanted.
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09 SEPT 08 Knowsley Hall, Merseyside. L34 4AG
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16 SEPT 08 Huntingdon Racecourse, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 4NL
18 SEPT 08 Newbury Racecourse, Newbury, Berks. RG14 7NZ
23 SEPT 08 Westpoint Centre, Exeter, Devon. EX5 1DJ
25 SEPT 08 Chepstow Racecourse, Chepstow, Gwent. NP16 6BE

To find out more and to register:
Web: www.kubota.co.uk/kubotalive Email: kubotalive@kubota.co.uk Call: 0800 023 1111
Like BIGGA’s annual show, Harrogate Week (BTME), held each January, IOG Saltex plays host to exhibitors from across the complete spectrum of turfcare and open space management regimes.

More than 15,000 visitors attend the annual three-day event at Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire, where over 450 exhibitors display the latest developments in fine turf and sports surfaces; turf maintenance equipment; landscaping; contractors; commercial vehicles; outdoor leisure and facilities and estate management, as well as software and security equipment.

Launched in 1938 as a grounds care show, Saltex has grown in size and stature to cover every aspect of open space management. The show covers every open space profession from groundsman and greenkeepers to play officers, architects, designers and surveyors.

The GTC will again occupy a joint stand (C20) with the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), reinforcing a link that has served the fine turf profession well for many years. The strong relationship between the GTC, BIGGA and the key education and training stakeholders, coupled with the progress in the professional development of greenkeepers and greenkeeping, is the envy of many.

The GTC (www.the-gtc.co.uk) represents golf clubs and greenkeepers with regard to qualifications, training standards and all associated matters including assessor and management training. Visit the stand (C20) and view the latest materials that are used by the GTC Approved Training Providers.

With over 6,500 members BIGGA (www.bigga.org.uk) is the UK’s leading professional organisation for greenkeepers and those involved in the management of turf. In addition to providing a wide range of member benefits the Association also acts as a training provider, supporting in particular the work of the GTC.

To register for free tickets for this event visit: www.iogsaltex.co.uk or call the visitor hotline on: 0870 429 4524.

Show Times:
Tuesday, September 2 – 9am until 5pm
Wednesday, September 3 – 9am until 7pm
Thursday, September 4 – 9am until 4.15pm
Essex-based Madonna lookalike, Louise.

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HOW TO GET TO SALTEX

VENUE:
Windsor Racecourse is set in 165 acres of beautiful Berkshire countryside, on the banks of the River Thames and overlooked by Windsor Castle. The Racecourse is well located, with easy access of the M4, M25, M3 and M40 motorways, and has a railway station close by with a FREE water taxi running throughout the three days of IOG SALTEX from Windsor town centre to the exhibition. Heathrow Airport is just a few miles away from Windsor Racecourse.

BY ROAD:
From the M25:
Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you’ll join the M4, heading West.

From the M4:
From the West - leave the M4 at junction 8/9, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX.

From the M4:
From the East - leave the M4 at junction 6, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX.

BY BUS:
Windsor Express bus number 700 connects London with Windsor. They depart from London Victoria Green Line Coach Station and you alight at Maidenhead Road, a short walk from the Racecourse. For more information call: +44 (0)870 608 7261.

BY RAIL:
You can travel by rail to Slough station from Paddington or the South West, or to Windsor Riverside & Eton station from London Waterloo. Then pick up the FREE water taxi service at French Brothers Pier beside the River Thames.

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Essex-based Madonna lookalike, Louise.
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- GreenCast has the most up to date five-day weather forecasts available that contain a wealth of valuable additional information for turf managers

**Weather Charts**
- Historic records of local weather conditions
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**Radar**
- View moving weather fronts in real time as they approach

### Disease

**Disease Maps**
- GreenCast Disease Maps predict the impending risk of all key UK turf diseases for your site. Easy to use and interpret, you can now be ready to tackle disease before it hits

**Disease Charts**
- GreenCast Disease Charts quickly inform what diseases are likely to have affected your turf in the past and help assess risk for the future

**Disease Notes**
- In depth advice on key UK turf diseases
- Identification guide
- Management options

### Management

**Product Information**
- How to get the best from the outstanding range of Syngenta products, designed to manage your turf more effectively

**ITM Advice**
- Topical advice on Integrated Turf Management techniques

**Spray Window**
- Five day forecast for conditions suitable for spraying and other turf management operations

**Technical Notes and Updates**
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