There’s One Tool You Won’t Need When You Service Hunter Sprinklers!

The last thing a golfer wants to see is unsightly excavation scars from typical sprinkler maintenance. All Hunter Premium Golf Sprinklers feature TTS - Total Top Service, with all serviceable parts accessible from the top which helps keep your course looking great like nothing else can.

A gifted and talented bunch

It is so refreshing to have just returned from St Andrews and been in the company of so many committed and talented BIGGA members. It goes some way to offsetting the consequences of a succession of late nights and early mornings that I only ever face during Open week.

The entire team, and it was drawn from members from all over the world, and a wide age range, but they gelled tremendously well. My abiding memory of the week will be of gallons and gallons of laughter, especially on some of the late evening mini bus rides back to Elmwood College where we were billeted for the week.

But what struck me was how, in the space of five days, people who had previously just been a face on a database became interesting human beings in their own right.

Having the chance to sit down and chat with so many of them led to discoveries about how gifted so many of them were, not just on the golf course but in other areas of their lives as well.

I uncovered someone who had recently rowed at Henley; someone who had been three times a British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Greenkeepers Association Limited
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Over 2,000 native coastal plants such as Thrift, Sheep-Fescue, Kidney Vetch, Yellow Horned Poppies and Scabious have helped the Conceptual Garden ‘A Fable for Tomorrow’ take a gold, RHS medal at Hampton Court Flower Show.

Designed by Sue Radmore, Electra Sanders and Scarlet Wheaton for University College Falmouth the Garden depicts an old, Cornish seed bank. Some seeds have spilled out to germinate around pools while others have colonised the hill itself as they might in the wild.

Linda Laxton, MD of British Wild Flower Plants, the specialist Norfolk Nursery that has custom grown the plants says that many seeds will lie underground for years until they are disturbed and the conditions are right for them to germinate.

*Poppies for example shed their seeds in August and because of the dry conditions fall through cracks in the soil where they remain about one foot down at a constant temperature until the field is ploughed. “When this happens they enjoy light and rain, germinate and consequently flower.”

British Wild Flower Plants have also supplied ‘Fields of Gold’ part of the ‘Home Grown’ RHS central exhibit at Hampton Court.

For further information, contact British Wild Flower Plants on Tel: 01603 716615 or visit www.wildflowers.co.uk

WILD FLOWERS STRIKE GOLD AT HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW

Success for Marriott Group

All 10 of Marriott’s UK golf resorts have been awarded “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” status in recognition of the hard work they have undertaken implementing a variety of projects in environmental areas around the golf course.

The Award is an international recognition of environmental excellence bestowed on organisations that are taking a leadership role in conservation. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses helps to enhance wildlife habitats and protect natural resources for the benefit of people, wildlife and the game of golf. The programme is designed to give Course Managers the information and guidance they need to implement stewardship projects and receive recognition for their efforts.

The Golf Programme is part of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. It is administered by Audubon International, a non-profit environmental organisation that spearheads education and conservation assistance programs that promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.

The Program addresses five key environmental quality areas: Wildlife and Habitat Management, Chemical Use, Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, Water Quality Management and Outreach and Education.

NEW MODEL

Despite lengthy talks with various modelling agencies Sheffield Section resisted temptation and used a model from among their own number! Thanks to Ian Whitehead for attempting to model the new Sheffield Section polo shirts. The shirts are available in many sizes and are at the very reasonable price of £10. The Section has already had a lot of enquiries so far so if you would like to order one please contact James Stevens on 07739716614

Golf Management Trophy Day comes to Erewash Valley

A Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day sponsored for the 12th successive year by Scotts UK Professional was held at Erewash Valley Golf Club.

Teams from 15 golf clubs enjoyed a great day on a superbly presented course prepared by Course Manager Graham Arnold and his staff. We were blessed with an unusually warm day, and all players were relieved to make it to the clubhouse for a well earned refreshment, where everyone was made to feel very welcome by all the staff and members; our thanks are extended to all at the Club.

The competition is based on the established format of four man teams playing stableford with the best two points scores on each hole to count. The team from Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, with Course Manager Antony Braidley won the event for the second time with a great score of 93 points, Birstall Golf Club 2nd with 89 points, and 3rd on 88 points Wollaton Park Golf Club.

The Midland Region of BIGGA thanks Erewash Valley Golf Club for hosting the event and Scotts for their sponsorship.
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Success for Marriott Group

AUGUST 2010

WILD FLOWERS STRIKE GOLD AT HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW
The IOG has created a Groundsman Diploma, in association with the NCVQ, to have a stronger influence in Wales and Northern Ireland and replaced the NVQ's in England, with both the greenkeeper organisations to follow. The GTC and IOG have secured an agreement with City & Guilds NPTC, to have their logos included in the content of the Diplomas as an exemplar for other land-based and groundsmanship bodies with both the greenkeeper NVQ's and groundsmen and women the Work Based Diplomas have been designed to give greenkeepers employers and learners as the Work Based Diplomas have been designed to give greenkeepers and groundsmen and women the skills and knowledge to maintain surfaces to the highest standards and groundsmen and women the skills and knowledge to maintain surfaces to the highest standards.
Tractors designed and built originally for use in agriculture are proving an increasingly important asset for non-farming applications as evidenced by the 125hp MF 7465 tractor added recently to the machinery fleet of Hampshire-based sports ground construction and turf drainage specialist, Kestrel Contracting.

Supplied by local Massey Ferguson dealer, Lister Wiltshire, the new tractor replaced a seven-year old 115hp MF 6265 in spearheading the company’s contract drainage operations on sports pitches and playing fields throughout the UK.

“Introducing the AFT Wide Wheel-75 wheel-type trencher, the additional mini-mainline advanced Fyna-VT transmission of the MF 7465 is proving invaluable in sustaining high workrates while promoting consistently good results in a wide range of surface conditions and soil types, points out Kestrel’s managing director, Richard Veitch.

“The extra horsepower comes in very useful when laying mains drainage pipes measuring up to 150mm diameter at depths anywhere between 500mm and 700mm below ground level,” said Richard.

SPORTS TURF UNITED

The GTC and IOG have secured an agreement with City & Guilds NPTC, to have their logos included on certificates for work-based diplomas for Greenkeepers and Groundsmen, which are aimed at employers and learners as the Work Based Diplomas have been designed to give greenkeepers and groundsmen the skills and knowledge to maintain courses to the highest standards.

In 2006, the IOG launched its six-year strategic Challenging Circle theme was to identify and establish partnerships. The IOG is delighted that an agreement between the GTC, IOG and City & Guilds NPTC has been reached.

The IOG, has created a Groundsman exemplar for other land-based organisations to follow. The IOG is working with both the greenkeeper and groundsmanship bodies to learn from the experiences of the exemplary projects in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.

The new Diplomas have replaced the NVQ’s in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and given industries the opportunity to have a stronger influence in the content of the Diplomas as well as a Quality Assurance in the delivery of the qualifications.

In another development the GTC, in association with the IOG, has created a Groundsmanship version of its acclaimed Greenkeepers Training Manual. Approved City & Guilds NPTC Centres will all have access to the manuals for use with sports turf students and the knowledge which underpins the new range of Diplomas is also available through learning materials in hard copy or CD ROM format.

David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, believes the agreement between the GTC, IOG and City & Guilds NPTC will benefit the sports turf sector and will benefit the sports turf sector.

“IOG, has created a Groundsman exemplar for other land-based organisations to follow.”

The STRI’s groundbreaking Trueness Meter was in use at St Andrews during The Open.

The revolutionary new technology played a pivotal role in ensuring all 18 greens were consistent and of an optimal trueness.

Developed in conjunction with Sheffield Hallam University following funding from the R&A, The Trueness Meter is used as an integral part of the STRI Programme. The technology is being hailed as one of the biggest steps forward in the agronomy industry in 30 years and the only accurate, effective and efficient method of measuring smoothness and trueness of a green.

The perfect putting surface tests the player but also gives reward for skillful play. STRI’s Trueness Meter™ allows greenkeepers for the first time to scientifically analyse the greens during an event and refine operations to help them implement 18 greens of the highest order.

War Graves Commission receive their new Bushranger

"The Bushranger has the features we need because it is well-designed for operator use. "

"The Bushranger has the features we need because it is well-designed for operator use. "

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has bought 86 new Bushranger Edgers from DJ Turfcare, based in Surrey.

DJ Turfcare is the sole distributors for the War Graves Commission. "Bushranger Edgers have proved ideal for maintaining the very high standards we insist on." DJ Turfcare Managing Director David Jenkins said. “We are very proud of our long association with the War Graves Commission. "Bushranger Edgers have proved ideal for maintaining the very high standards we insist on."

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This year’s Scottish National Tournament was held in the North East of Scotland at Murcar Links Golf Club, Aberdeen on Thursday, 17 June, 2010.

During its 100 years Murcar has hosted many tournaments and frequently features in the top 100 courses in the U.K. In 2007, voted the Golf Tourism Scotland “Course of the Year - 2007”.

Overhead conditions were perfect, with a breeze just to make things interesting typical links conditions. Entry was slightly down on last year but the players in attendance were looking forward to playing this fine links course. After the most severe winter in almost 30 years Brian Anderson and his staff are to be congratulated on producing a course in excellent condition for the tournament.


A celebration was held on in June when Directors Richard and Jean Campney presented a trophy to a weekend away for him and his wife and a bottle of Mal Whisky to mark the occasion. Tony, a well known figure within the trade and with Campney customers, originally joined as a sales representative covering North Wales, Cheshire and the North Staffordshire area and went on to become General Manager.

“In an age when strength of character, loyalty and teamwork are not always given the recognition they deserve, we are delighted to acknowledge the sheer hard work and dedication Tony has displayed over the past 20 years,” acknowledged Richard.

“He has never had a day off sick in all that time and has proved himself a loyal and dedicated member of our team.”

So far, so good?

Six months of my term as Chairman have now elapsed and the messages people kindly send to talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk have prompted me to consider where we now are and where we need to be going.

By way of brief explanation BIGGA has an elected (volunteer) Board who are responsible for policy making and implementation. The Board determines the duties of the Chief Executive (CE) who then administers the Association’s affairs under the general instruction of the Board, i.e. the CE produces a Business Plan and supervises the professional HQ team to achieve the business Plans.

It is an honour for me to serve this Association and to work with the Board and the HQ team. At the AGM in January the members attending indicated that they wanted me to take an active role in the business and give me my mandate to work with the HQ team and our hard working volunteers to make BIGGA the best membership organisation anywhere in the UK.

I freely admit - this is a rather ‘all-emcompassing’ vision and one that will need continuous effort and attention. However, six months ago I expressed the belief that we already have the leadership, the professional HQ team and the infrastructure (people) present to make this aim a reality.

I am delighted to acknowledge the excellent hard work and dedication shown by all of our members and in serving their needs.

Your Board are keen to advance the BIGGA CPD Accreditation scheme; this ‘take-up’ challenge through key activities like the point to point updated BIGGA CPD Accreditation scheme, a specific event for Assistant Greenkeepers at Harrogate Week 2011. See my May column.

3: Data Driven Strategies

I am grateful to Board members for their often heroic efforts to formulate clear strategies and make wise decisions. I will continue to encourage Board members and HQ staff to gather the key data that our three faced structure makes accessible to us.

It is so important that the Board makes informed decisions based on up-to-date information from a wide range of sources.

Chairman’s Word

Halfway through his term, BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster, looks back at performance and forward to success

4: Dialogue and Engagement

I am grateful to the Board for all that they do to represent the aspirations of their members at all levels.

I will encourage Board members and HQ staff to ensure that we respond to this key challenge by supporting local volunteers with ever increasing regularity, and I will ensure our Board and HQ team are deeply committed to ensuring that we continue to improve the ways we offer our services and interact with our members. Please also see my April column.

5: CEO is a broker of good ideas for the Board

I am grateful to the Chief Executive who has not only brokered good ideas but seen their wider potential e.g. expanding the ‘Carreries Clinic’ at Harrogate Week into a ‘Carreries Fair’ complete with Job Wall.

6: Organisational Adaptability

Through the small office like BIGGA HQ may be vulnerable to sudden skills shortages requiring an up-to-date Succession Plan and cover for key roles - its size means it can more swiftly – adapt to unforeseen market conditions - optimise the way it delivers its services.

I will actively encourage your Board to ensure that the Association’s organisational and resources, as well as its products and services, are aligned to its mission.

7: Alliance Building

I am grateful to the Chief Executive for his hard work over many years to build meaningful partnerships with key trade and sporting bodies.

I will actively encourage your Board to ensure that we continue to form advantageous alliances with organisations in the golf sector.

So far, so good.

In closing let me mention that your Board recently honoured Cecil Collins with the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The vision of Cecil and people like him who helped develop formal training for Greenkeepers continues to help BIGGA to be where it should be i.e. in the forefront of the advancement of the greening profession.

20 Years of Unbroken Service Recognised by Campneys

Congratulations are in order for Tony Cundall, General Manager for Campneys Turf Care Systems, as this year marks the 20th anniversary of him joining the Macduff-based company.

A celebration was held on in June when Directors Richard and Jean Campney presented a trophy to a weekend away for him and his wife and a bottle of Mal Whisky to mark the occasion. Tony, a well known figure within the trade and with Campney customers, originally joined as a sales representative covering North Wales, Cheshire and the North Staffordshire area and went on to become General Manager.

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