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As we enter a brand new decade – yes, I’m aware of the old argument about how technically it begins in the year ending in one, but our Millennium celebrations started on the evening of Dec 31, 1999, not Dec 31, 2000, didn’t they? – and as well as wondering what we have done with the last 10 years of our lives, it makes you wonder just where we will all be in January 2020.

On one hand the last 10 have gone in the blink of an eye but really it’s remarkable just how much has happened since Jan 1, 2000. A mere 10 years ago we hadn’t even heard of the iPhone or Facebook, or Usain Bolt or Barack Obama, while Tiger Woods was known only for his golfing exploits.

In the big wide world, 9/11 and the subsequent military conflicts; the tsunami; the death of Michael Jackson and the demise of Woolies were all still ahead of us. No-one could have predicted the volatility of the world economy two years ago, never mind 10 years ago, and there can be no disguising how much that has happened since Jan 1, 2000. While we're sitting here, who could have predicted the impact that has had on golf.

However, the game will survive and those clubs which get their priorities right and continue to invest in their greatest asset will continue to thrive. The Olympics, Commonwealth Games and, possibly, the World Cup all gracing these shores in the next decade – will gain a genuine boost over the next 10 years.

It’s just a case of finding a way through this particularly difficult spell and this month we include an article with contributions from Les Howkins MG and Ian Henderson which is designed to offer advice on how to make a lot out of a little both in the club and on the golf course.

Some of the information may be things you are already doing, or not relevant to your place of work, but even if there is one thing that can help you it will make life that little bit easier.

Don’t discount advice from any source. But back to the year 2020. I certainly don’t have 20/20 vision, but I do know that some of what will be commonplace in 10 years’ time will seem truly mind boggling now.

Progress doesn’t slow down as we move forward – it gathers pace and I suspect we’ve all be travelling to work on environmentally-friendly jet powered hover boards; have entire cities housed under glass domes to protect us from damaging rays, and be hitting the golf ball shorter distances to preserve the relevance of our top golf courses.

You guys may not have your current armoury of chemicals to fight disease but new versions will come on board, while grass breeders will be closer to the Holy Grail of slow growing, disease resistant, shade tolerant, thin leafed swards.

No-stradamus I am not, but, you never know, I might just have got something right. I’m excited about the thought that it might be boggling now.

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Gi
Greenkeeper
International

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Cover Photograph of Hankley Common, taken by Course Manager, Gareth Roberts

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this month’s Golf
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a double-feature on how to
maintain golf club standards

Make 2010 a Good Year

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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.
“There it goes...!”

Don Wales, the nephew of multiple world speed record holder, Donald Campbell, will be at the controls of the attempt which aims to propel a lawnmower at speeds in excess of 100mph.

Project Runningblade aims to smash the current record set by Bob Cleveland from the United States of 80.792mph at Bonneville Salt Flats in 2006.

The attempt is planned to take place at this Pendine Sands in Wales early next year and was announced at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu.

At 100mph, the machine would cover 147ft per second, covering the target mile in less than 36 seconds.

The Runningblade team has worked with Countax and is hoping to raise funds and awareness for Great Ormond Street Hospital and Wessex Heartbeat.

Apprenticeship Framework For Horticultural Businesses Approved

Lantra, has announced that a new Level 2 and a revised Level 3 Modern Apprenticeship framework for horticultural businesses have been approved by the Modern Apprenticeship Group (MAG) and are now available to use in Scotland.

Over the past year, Lantra has undertaken an extensive consultation with horticultural businesses, other industry professionals and training providers to review industry’s requirements for Modern Apprenticeships and ensure they are kept relevant and up-to-date to meet the changing needs of industry professionals. Following this review, a new Level 2 Modern Apprenticeship (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Level 5) in horticulture has been developed and the Level 3 framework (SCQF Level 6) revised.

The new Level 2 Modern Apprenticeship (SCQF Level 5) in horticulture is the first framework at this level to be made available in the environmental and land-based sector in Scotland. The new frameworks have been widely welcomed by the horticultural industry as they meet the need identified by the industry for a Level 2 Modern Apprenticeship.

To view or download the new modern apprenticeship frameworks in horticulture, please visit http://www.lantra.co.uk/apprenticeship-framework-documents/. To find out more about the modern apprenticeship programme or to see the upcoming schedule of framework reviews, please visit: www.lantra.co.uk/apprenticeships or call 0845 707 8007.
Architects Appointed by Emirates

Thomson Perrett & Lobb, the golf course architecture practice founded by five-times Open Champion, Peter Thomson, has been appointed by Emirates Golf Club to modernise its flagship Majlis Course, home of the Dubai Desert Classic.

TPL will carry out an audit of the course’s bunkering as part of a wider modernisation programme, overseeing the repositioning and reconstruction of bunkers to upgrade the course for professional events, including the Dubai Desert Classic and Dubai Ladies Masters, and day-to-day club and visitor play.

Rod Bogg, Special Advisor to Dubai Golf, who oversaw construction of Emirates Golf Club 22 years ago, said: “We selected TPL to oversee the modernisation of the Majlis Course because of its experience in designing prestige golf courses in the Middle East and its expertise in bunkering.

“Our bunkers are out of date and, due to modern equipment, out of play. Some of the players are hitting the ball 60 or 70 yards past the fairway bunkers during the Dubai Desert Classic. While that is only one week of the year, we need to ensure that the course remains the enjoyable challenge that it is for professionals and amateurs all year round.”

Rod added: “We are not redesigning the course and not adding additional bunkers to the course, but we are looking at relocating, reshaping and reconstructing the bunkers we do have to bring the course up to the highest modern standards, as well as making some improvements to the aesthetics of the course.”

The new look course will be in play for the Dubai Desert Classic in 2011.

Pictured (from left): Andrew Goosen (TPL), Rod Bogg (Dubai Golf), Tim Lobb (TPL), Craig Haldane (Golf Course Superintendent), Chris May (General Manager, Dubai Golf)
Sunningdale’s staff showed that they were a fit bunch by running in support of Children in Need 2009.

The run took place over two routes on the Old and New courses, starting at the clubhouse, with all runners going at the same time when a rocket was set off!

“The idea was to complete a marathon distance with all runners doing a leg which consisted of 2.7 miles! The initially idea was to have ten runners to cover the distance but the response was so good we covered a lot more miles!” said Course Manager, Murray Long.

Runners consisted of all members of staff from the Secretary, Courses Manager, Head Greenkeepers, Assistant Greenkeepers, General Manager and Food and Beverage servers.

“Members provided the sponsorship and the total is well above £500.

“It went so well that maybe next time we will look at expanding it to include other clubs to raise more money for this worthy cause,” said Murray.

After more than 18 years at Carnoustie, Assistant Superintendent, Paul O’Connor, has been appointed Links Superintendent for the new Trump International Golf Links.

“Paul is highly respected and is known to be one of the best in his field. His years of training and experience at Carnoustie made him an obvious choice for this appointment. He is a very important addition to my team,” said Donald Trump.

Paul was delighted by his new role.

“I enjoyed 18 years at Carnoustie and understand the high standards required of a leading championship course. I am extremely proud to be involved in the construction and development of what will be the finest links course ever built - it is a privilege to work for Mr Trump on this spectacular terrain.”

Studying greenkeeping at Elmwood College in the early 90s, while working as an apprentice greenkeeper at Carnoustie, Paul quickly rose to the position of Head Greenkeeper under John Philip.

“During The 2007 Open Championship he led the greenkeeping team to prepare what was widely regarded as the best conditioned Open Venue of all time. His attention to detail, passion for the job and knowledge of links golf sets him apart; he will be a significant asset to the management team at Balmedie,” said Ian McClements, of the STRI.

Paul has also advised on other international championship courses overseas, and has a golf handicap of 3.

This man would have fallen foul of the Health and Safety executive if it had been in this country. The Daily Mail featured this unusual attempt to cut a hedge.
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Campey Turfcare Systems has appointed David Harrison as Export Sales Manager. David is already very well known in the industry through his long career with SISIS and brings a wealth of experience and global industry knowledge to his new post.

David will be responsible for developing further growth in sales throughout the European and world markets where Campey Turfcare Systems are currently operating, as well as introducing a whole range of products into new markets in the Middle East and Asia. His appointment is also an integral part of the extension of the Imants distributorship.

“We are at a very exciting stage in the expansion plans of the company and David will play a central part in that future strategy. There is a huge challenge ahead; one that he is extremely well qualified to take on,” said Richard Campey, Managing Director of Campey.

“His expertise, professionalism and dedication to the industry have been demonstrated throughout his association with the groundscare industry. We are extremely pleased that he has accepted this position and consider him a valuable and important asset to the team.”

Mandy Caton, Sales Administrator at Campey Turf Care Systems, will face the biggest challenge of her life next Spring when she attempts to cycle from London to Paris to raise money for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

In just four days in May, she’ll cover 300 miles in the company of 70 other riders.

“I’m terrified, but excited at the same time, I know it’ll be an unforgettable experience,” said Mandy, who has been with Campeys for seven years. “It’s a long way and I’ve never done anything like this before, but I’m determined to raise as much money as I can for the charity.

“I’m doing lots of preparation by cycling locally, going to spinning classes at the gym and buying every sort of garment I can with gel in it!

“One of my good friends had breast cancer two years ago and is now in remission thankfully. It seems that most people you speak to know someone who has been affected by it in some way.”

To sponsor Mandy visit: www.justgiving.com/mandy-caton.

New Man for Aitkens

Aitkens Sportsturf has appointed Paul Emmanuel as an additional new technical representative for the Yorkshire area. Australian Paul has been a greenkeeper at Harrogate Golf Club for over six years and before that was a groundsman at two cricket clubs in the Harrogate area. He has been a regional finalist in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and has also won four titles in the Nidderdale Cricket League for best ground.

Paul’s responsibilities will include extending Aitken’s coverage to golf and sports clubs around Yorkshire.

“Paul will be a welcomed addition to our existing representatives to further improve our coverage and service to our customers,” said Richard Aitken, Commercial Director.