Now, a Full- and Part-Circle Rotor with real versatility.

That’s intelligent.

The finest greenkeeping performance of all time

When I wrote about a successful Ryder Cup in my Editorial last month I did so in advance of the match itself and based my views on what I knew and had seen of Jim McKenzie’s preparations.

I did have the foresight to suggest that the weather might be the obstacle to a successful week, but certainly didn’t appreciate just to what extent it would play its part.

I also didn’t predict that it would be those appalling weather conditions that have given the greenkeeping profession its biggest boost for many a decade, if not ever.

Generally speaking, the lot of the greenkeeper is to toil away in the background, and work on the premise that no news is good news. An occasional bit of praise is nice - from those enlightened people who suspect that a golf course doesn’t look after itself - but, as you well know, golf course comment generally carries a health warning and comes with optional hard hat!

At Celtic Manor, however, that “behind the scenes” work was carried out in front of huge soggy galleries and a worldwide television audience of many tens of millions. Had it not been executed in such an expert fashion by the 130 plus Celtic Manor and volunteer staff the Ryder Cup would almost certainly have had a different conclusion, and may have even been abandoned early.

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And for a change people noticed. To read a thread entitled “Three Cheers for the Greens Staff” on the BBC 606 Forum is a welcome first, and shows what a bit of exposure can do for greenkeeping. Admittedly it only got eight replies, but it’s a start, isn’t it?

In all seriousness, while there must have been times, and Jim McKenzie admitted to as much in the Ryder Cup Special elsewhere in this magazine, when everyone involved was in the depths of despair and wondering if it was ever going to finish, it will probably go down as one of, if not the finest greenkeeping performance of all time.

And, let’s face it, if the 2010 Ryder Cup had enjoyed perfect weather and perfect playing conditions it would have been back to the usual state of affairs of no-one noticing.

We, in the business, would have taken pride in what had been achieved and marvelled at the presentational touch and the smooth putting surfaces, but we would have retained a similar public profile to that of The Borrowers or the fairies who frequent the bottom of our gardens.

It is a cliché, but bears repeating nonetheless - Without greenkeepers there would be no golf.

With cut backs threatened, or being implemented, at golf clubs throughout the country, those in charge of the sharp pencil should remember as much. A poorly maintained golf course will lead to the fortunes of the golf club heading in only one direction.

On behalf of everyone involved in the sports turf industry I say thank you to Jim and his magnificent Ryder Cup crew.

Jimmie, you may have done this industry one great turn.

Scott MacCallum
Editor
The finest greenkeeping performance of all time

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Jim’s fine work is a bonus, but greenkeeping remains 130 plus Celtic Manor and volunteer staff the backbone of this profession.

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Golf of the highest standard
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The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited
**Moffat Man Retires**

Robin McMillan retired recently after having served nearly 37 years as Head Greenkeeper at Moffat Golf Club, in Dumfriesshire.

Robin, like myself, was born and bred in Moffat and he developed an interest in golf when, as a youngster, he became a message boy for the local grocer, Mr. Stewart, who was also a fine golfer and a great believer in getting youngsters involved in the sport. His method was quite novel. He expected his message boys to caddy for him in the evening, without payment, but he encouraged them to try it out for themselves. I followed Robin as Mr. Stewart’s message boy and it certainly worked for both of us.

It was with great pleasure that I was able to attend the celebration to mark Robin’s retirement. The club and his friends had arranged a golf match and dinner in the clubhouse where a presentation was made to him for his many years of devotion to the club. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening where friends and work colleagues paid their respects and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Robin became a greenkeeper at the club where his uncle was the Head Greenkeeper (nepotism was alive and well). After four weeks his uncle decided to retire and left him as the sole Green Staff member. A daunting task at an 18 hole golf course. Robin embraced the challenge and he has been a stalwart and a fine example of a hard working and conscientious greenkeeper who has been a credit to greenkeeping and, especially, Moffat Golf Club. Robin has always been a member of BIGGA and a great supporter of the Association.

Robin leaves Moffat in the capable hands of Mike Wilson who has been his deputy for a number of years. Mike is taking on the responsibilities of Head Greenkeeper and we wish him all the best.

Robin is looking forward to all the opportunities retirement will bring. He is a staunch supporter of Queen of the South Football Club and will now have more time to attend the matches. Golf is also high on his agenda. We wish Robin well and hope he has a long and happy retirement.

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator

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**Class of ’76**

David Salisbury, Course Manager at Burghley Park Golf Club, has a huge library of old books and photographs and he has uncovered this photograph taken in 1976 of delegates at a training course at the STRI. See if you can spot younger versions, and haircuts, of some familiar faces.

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**New book for the British Standards Institute**

This informative, simple, clearly laid out book brings together all of the relevant information needed to manage the risks presented by the use of machinery. By answering the most frequently asked machinery safety questions the book offers practical health and safety solutions.

With questions featuring in a purple font and plenty of white space this A5 book would be a valuable read for anyone involved in Risk Assessment and general H&S.

The author, John Glover, is a graduate of the Institute of Occupational Safety and has practised health and safety law and safety of machinery for a number of years.

Paul and Jane Undery, long time PR consultants for Etesia, were presented with a momento at Saltex by Etesia’s Managing Director Patrick Eves, to mark Paul and Jane’s retirement.

The couple were invited to Etesia’s traditional Saltex breakfast so they could meet up with their friends in the press and say goodbye.

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**Off and Running**

Harry Jurgens, of AFT Trenchers, is taking part in a vintage car rally from Peking to Paris.

The route from China to France will take the teams more than 30 days to complete, through more than nine countries, with plenty of stops along the way. 100 cars from around the world are competing.

“We are taking part in the 4th Peking to Paris event that retraces the steps of 11 pioneering automobile adventurers in 1907. It has also presented us with an opportunity to raise awareness and hopefully funds for Parkinson’s Disease,” said Harry, who is competing with a friend.
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Email your news to scott@bigga.co.uk
Ransomes Jacobsen threw open the gates to its European head office and invited the UK turf industry to an Open House event over two days in late September.

Over 400 guests, including many current customers, prospects, dealers and distributors, representatives from the media and local dignitaries, attended the event which provided a varied programme of activities. Industry partners including BIGGA, STRI, IOG and GEO were present as were suppliers to the sector, Scotts, Syngenta, Bernhards and Broadwood International.

The event took place in a relaxed atmosphere, somewhat similar to a country fair, with equipment displays and demonstrations, historic Ransomes equipment including the first Budding lawnmower, a working Ransomes steam engine, thrasher and ploughs, factory tours, outdoor games and a nearest the pin competition on the company’s three-hole golf course.

On the following weekend a Family and Friends Day with a similar format saw 620 people invade the premises to see the array of turf maintenance equipment produced in Ipswich. A model steam railway provided rides for the children and entertainment included fete and funfair-type games, a ‘beat the goalie competition’, music from a local school band, a putting competition and a BBQ lunch. The local police and fire and rescue services were also in attendance with their latest vehicles.

Commenting on a very hectic three days, Managing Director, David Withers, said, “It was quite a week and exceeded all expectations. We had around 430 visitors over the two industry days and 258 of those toured the manufacturing plant. Some came from as far away as Holland and Austria. Many remarked that they had not appreciated that we produce mowing equipment on this scale, so it was pleasing to get the message across to so many.

“The Family and Friends Day was equally successful and provided the opportunity for the staff to show their loved ones where they worked and showcase how they contribute to the success of the business here in Ipswich,” said David.
OPEN DAYS

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Golf Environment Award Winners

Portmore Golf Park and James Hutchinson, of Fairhaven Golf Club, are the two main winners in the 2010 Golf Environment Awards. Portmore, in Devon, won the Overall Achievement Award and John, the Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year and Owner/Manager of Portmore, Colin Webber, and James each win a Study Trip to the USA.

Regional Winners were Scotland: Loch Lomond GC; Wales: Aberdovey GC; Northern England: Gilberts on Solway GC and Southern England: Aldeburgh GC.

Individual Project Award winners were: Nature Conservation: Delamere Forest GC; Water Management: Maesteg GC; Waste Management: Machrihanish Dunes GC and Turfgrass Management: Royal St David’s GC.

Bio-inspired

What if you had a product inspired by nature that provided targeted, selective turf disease control?

Visit www.greencast.co.uk for more information
Back to the Future: The 5th European Golf Business Conference!

“Back to the Future” is the theme of the European Golf Business Conference 2010. The 5th edition will be held in London; the first time the event has been held in the UK - from November 30 to December 2. An international group of representatives from the golf industry will gather in this city, to exchange ideas of how the game can grow, to discuss current developments of the industry and to share knowledge and information on golf course management.

More information about the programme, speakers and location can be found at the conference website: [www.conference.egcoa.eu](http://www.conference.egcoa.eu).

Nominations Open for the Edwin Budding Award

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association is now accepting nominations for the fourth annual Edwin Budding Award. The Award recognises those who have made significant contributions to the golf course equipment industry, including those who have excelled in the business, history, education, design, engineering and maintenance of golf course equipment.

Nominations should be sent to nominations@igcema.org, and the deadline for nominations is November 26. The winner will be presented the award in Orlando, Florida, USA during the Golf Industry Show.

Protective shield

What if you had a long-lasting protective shield against Fusarium even for the toughest winter?

Visit [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk) for more information