Myersons College held their presentation of awards ceremonies over two days in July. The ceremonies saw many students presented with outstanding achievement awards, rewarding their efforts during the duration of the course.

This year saw eight Sportsturf students given awards as the top in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management Degree. For the FdSc Sportsturf Degree: David Golding, from Southport, won the Ernest Jones Award First Prize; Robert Clare, from Clitheroe, won the Philip Jacobsen Turf Machinery Practical Award; and Peter Leach, from Blyth, won the Barenburg Turf Award.

For the BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Degree: Samuel Willis, from Blackpool, won the Top Dress Cup; Neil Kellington, from Levens, won the RCA Turfmech’s Managing Director, Austin Jarrett, explained that the company’s PTO kit for the JD vehicles. For the four Degree students (from left to right), Peter Leach, Paul Cook, Robert Clare and David Golding.

Top Dressed Cup and Ransomes Jacobsen Turf Machinery Practical Award respectively for the National Diploma in Sportsturf. For the First Diploma in Sportsturf, Stephen McGinley, from Lancashire, won the IOG Cup, while Mark Willis, from Blackpool, won the Toro Turf Machinery Practical Award.

Turfmech’s gets hitched

TURFMech has acquired the design, manfacturing and marketing rights to the “Ultra-Lite” sowing kits developed originally by Scottish company, iPitchPower Ltd, for fitting to Toro’s Toro Workman HD and John Deere ProGator walk vehicles.

The acquisition includes also the company’s PTU kit for the JD ProGator.

Turfmech’s Managing Director, Austin Jarrett, explained that the agreement encompassed the entire stock, trade, brands and intellectual property rights formerly owned by PitchPower Ltd and its founder and owner, Graham Southy.

Turfmech plans to sell branded kits world-wide via its website and its sales team as well as through John Deere and Toro dealers.

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The group picture shows the Four Degree students (from left to right), Peter Leach, Paul Cook, Robert Clare and David Golding.
September hails the journey to Salute, our turf wellies packed, next to our suntan lotion! September also features the finale of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the delivery of the latest update for the Continue to Learn Education Programme.

The focus shifts from ‘planning’ to ‘organising’ and, for the next few months, all roads lead to Harrogate.

Continue to Learn 2011 – Turf Managers’ Conference

The 2011 Continue to Learn education programme has been finalised. You will be receiving your copy of the programme with next month’s issue of Greenkeeper International.

Brand new for 2011 is the introduction of the ‘Turf Managers’ Conference’. Taking place on Monday, January 17, the new conference has been developed specifically with Head Greenkeepers, Course Managers and those who manage turf on courses.

We have secured a first-class line up of speakers:

- Dr. John E. Kaminski, Assistant Professor, The Pennsylvania State University
- Dr. Kate Entwistle, Turfgrass Pathologist, The Turf Disease Centre
- Robert Hunt, Chairman, International Design Group
- Stanley J. Knotka, PhD, Director – Technology and Innovation, Aquatrols Corporation
- Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, BIGGA

- Dr David Jones, Research Scientist, The Natural History Museum

Presenting a range of topics:

• Effective use of Primo on golf courses
• New challenges in turf disease management
• Golf Is Dead
• It’s not just about dry patch anymore! The science of soil water repellency, surfactants and sustainable turf management
• Microcystis phosphoreus: a new threat to golf greens
• Preparing for and dealing with Winter damage

Further information on the Turf Managers’ Conference will feature in the next issue of the Education Programme. However, if you want to reserve your place, please contact the LAG Department on 01347 833000 (option 3).

New Field Guide Coming Soon!

A new field guide, written by Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment at the STRI, will be available soon. The subject for the new guide was selected following last year’s Field Guide survey for new subjects. It will deal with Winter damage.

Have you looked at the new ‘How To...’ Guides, Field Guides and Library books are purchased and are available free of charge to BIGGA Members, the Golden and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

‘How To...’ Guides

• The Superintendent’s Guide to Controlling Putt Green Speed
  - Thomas A. Nikolai

• Turfgrass and Landscape Irrigation Water Quality Assessment and Management
  - Ronnie R. Duncan, Robert N. Carrow and Michael T. H  

• Tournament Management - A Superintendent’s Guide to Preparing a Golf Course for Competition
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Contact Details

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development

01347 833000 (option 3) - sami@bigga.co.uk

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The 2010 series of workshops were designed to meet the main aim of the project: to engage all turf staff working within the GTC’s Approved Centres and colleges to not only help them understand and promote through the various training courses all aspects of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme but also to see the GTC and The R&A.

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Training Committee

David Golding, Education Director, with a monthly update from the GTC

Kings Hill GC, Buxted Park, Burrow OC and Temple Golf

Following the 2009 workshops it was agreed to extend invitations to widen the delegates beyond turf Centre staff. The GCA and GCMA were invited to identify representatives who could attend and in turn distribute the message to their members. Phil Weaver, Chairman of the PGA and Keith Lloyd CEO of the GCMA attended a workshop and their feedback and support will hopefully result in the Sustainable Golf Course Programme message being integrated into future seminars and education programmes for golfers.

In recent years “sustainability” has become a word that many industries have adopted but few people really understand what it means or how it can be applied within their particular working environment. With the support of the turf staff at the Approved Centres and the information and learning materials provided by the various organisations, including those associated with the GTC, we are starting to make real progress to promote best practice for the future maintenance and management of British golf courses.

From the outset of the promotion of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme the GTC has always promoted the need for a united approach at any golf club before embarking on the programme and, in particular, the basic requirement of a Course Policy Document. This message seems quite old now and while it has been adopted by many clubs it appears there are still some who manage the course without such a policy. This clearly has implications as committees change or when the Course Manager moves on.

I know all of the Course Managers at the workshop venues above have stories to share when the agreed policy at their club has been questioned, to the point when even the temptation to abandon the programme has been close to being approved by owners and committees.

The pressure to stick to the policy not only falls on the Course Manager but also the management team of assistant managers and their employers. During all of the GTC workshops the issue of communication to the golfer was highlighted and despite the GTC ensuring all aspects of the sustainable programme being incorporated into the various qualifications and training courses there is still much more work to be done with employers and the golfer.

In an effort to help share the sustainable message the GTC had the workshop videos filmed and with the kind permission of the speakers on the day we invite you to view one or more of 11 films on the GTC website.

Another development during recent years has been the ongoing capture of best practice case studies at various golf courses around the UK and these have become accessible through our website www.gtc.org.uk.

It is with the support of The R&A and the Home Unions that case studies are being collated and up and there is clear evidence that this source of information, together with visits to clubs that see the work often still in progress, is an excellent method of promoting the various aspects of the sustainable programme.

In supporting the sustainable programme, also promotes the fact that there has to be a sense of realism when embarking on any aspect of the programme, that there is no quick fix and the road can be very rocky at times for both the Greenkeeping team and the people empowered to manage the course.

The sustainable programme is not just about encouraging and maintaining the more suitable and sustainable grasses...it encompasses all the facets of playing and economic performance, environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

September kicks the journey to better, more usable greenkeeping, packing, next to our suntan lotions! September also features the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the delivery of the information for the Continue to Learn Education Programme.

The focus shifts from ‘planning’ to ‘organising’ and, for the next few months, all roads lead to Harrogate.

Continue to Learn 2011 – Turf Managers’ Conference

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We have secured a first-class line up of speakers:

• Dr John K. Ramík, Assistant Professor, The Pennsylvania State University
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Presenting a range of topics:

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Further information on the Turf Managers’ Conference will feature in the final of the Pride in Turf Programme. However, if you want to reserve your place, please contact the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3).

New Field Guide Coming Soon!

A new field guide, written by Bob Taylor (Turf and Ecology and Environment at the STIRL, will be available soon. The subject for the new guide was selected following last year’s Field Guide survey for new subjects. It will deal with the Winter, Spring and Summer aspects of the game: Winter – Controlling Putting Green Speed, Winter damage, and New challenges in turf disease management. Spring – New growth on the greens, Spring damage and Recognition of Protected Habitats and Species. Summer – The ’How To...’ Guides, Field Guides and Library books are purchased and are available free of charge, to BIGGA Members, through the Golden and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, with an update on education issues
We can all recall innovations that have changed the way we do things.

Technology has made managing our work and achieving our goals quicker, easier and more precise.

When Greenmaster fertilizers were launched in the mid-’80s, they featured cutting-edge technology to help sports turf managers deliver the exacting nutritional requirements for their turf.

Innovation moved on, and thanks to Scotts’ world-leading Research & Development Programme, Greenmaster Pro-Lite is still the most advanced granular fertilizer available, nearly a quarter of a century later.

Pro-Lite is micro granule technology that contains zeolite. Zeolite’s molecular structure is a 3D cage-like framework of silica and alumina molecules. The spaces and channels in each molecule means it acts like a microscopic sponge.

Excess oxygen is kept within the framework and creates a negative charge, holding cations and water molecules until they’re needed by the plant.

And because each ultra-fine Greenmaster granule contains the same ratio of superior-quality nutrients, they disperse rapidly, produce a fast, even turf response, and the results last even longer.

Make Greenmaster Pro-Lite your choice this autumn. To find your local Scotts distributor, visit www.scottsprofessional.co.uk.
Technology that has remained ahead of its time

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INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

The St Andrews Links greenskeeping team has paid tribute to the Toro turf maintenance fleet that helped it keep the Old Course in championship condition for the recent Open.

Louis Oosthuizen may have lifted the Claret Jug, but hearty congratulations are also in order for Director of Greenskeeping, Gordon Moir, Course Manager of The Old Course.

Also, credit goes to their crew, who battled blustery conditions and heavy rain to keep the course in perfect playing condition – with a little help from Toro, whose machinery The Home of Golf exclusively uses.

Gordon Moir reveals, “Our Toro fleet certainly helped us to get the system at Omaha.

Toro keeps The Old Course in Championship Condition

The team also sought Toro’s special Tournament Fleet service to supplement St Andrews Links’ existing machinery supply from its other course.

“The Tournament support helped by loaning us seven extra Greensmaster 3250Ds to allow us to achieve the huge task of mowing fairways to the highest standard within the tight timescale we had each morning,” Gordon Moir adds.

“The Old Course has seven double fairways, which means we had to mow two fairways at once, so we required the additional machinery to make that achievable.

“In addition, we brought in extra Workman utility vehicles for transportation of various pedestrian mowers and, of course, the staff as well”

High-profile Oxfordshire visitor attraction, Waterperry Gardens, has taken delivery of a pair of Sanli LSP46 self-propelled pedestrian mowers to help maintain a variety of formal lawns and other grassed areas within the magnificent 3.2ha ornamental garden.

Handed over by Sanli UK’s Area Manager, Claire Morris, the two mowers are to be used by Waterperry’s three full-time gardeners. The mowers incorporate operator-friendly features such as comfort-grip handles, 60 litre grass collectors and single-point cutting height adjustment.

Located near the village of Wheatley, east of Oxford, Waterperry Gardens was, until 1971, home to a school of horticulture for ladies. Today, the gardens at Waterperry have evolved into an oasis of calm and beauty where visitors can enjoy the spectacular formal gardens, which include a walled canal, a rose garden and the celebrated 60m long colour border, said to be one of the finest purely herbaceous borders in the UK.

Trucks in Demand

For many years Club Car, has been the Official Golf Car of the European Tour. This year sees additions to the Tour trucks used to transport the vehicles and from each event.

“We’re delighted to continue our commitment to the European Tour,” said Roberto Coccaro, Director of Marketing & Sales for Club Car.

“Our association with the Tour provides a highly visible and prestigious platform for Club Car to showcase a wide range of products, build relationships and enhance the brand globally.”

The Club Car entourage covers the European Tour’s needs for staging, television and rules cars. Every car supplied by Club Car is designed to a specific purpose and it takes two double-decker 28 ton trucks to transport the cars around from venue to venue. Additional trucks have been added this year to cope with demands.

JCB Secures Huge Order with Leading London Plant Hiker

JCB has won a huge order – including 42 tracked and wheeled excavators – from one of the country’s leading plant hire firms.

The multi-million pound deal has been secured with London-based Lynch Plant Hire and includes a fleet of 42 tracked excavator models in addition to two wheeled excavators manufactured at JCB Heavy Products in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

The excavator order was placed in response to increased demand from Lynch Plant Hire’s customers for machines which can operate in the demanding road and rail sectors. Several of the machines have already been delivered and are already performing on high profile projects across the UK. This includes the JCB wheeled excavator models carrying groundwork as part of the M25 motorway widening scheme.

French Connection

ClearWater has made the French connection with one of its washdown water recycling systems being recently installed in France at Omaha Beach GC in Normandy.

High speed Group’s Joint MD, David Means said, “This follows many months of hard work, particularly by our agent for France, Michel Charpentier of MACDER Ltd to secure business for ClearWater. We were very pleased to have been selected to install one of our systems at this superb club.”

With the demands of legislation concerning pollution prevention tightening across Europe, ClearWater recycling systems are now a familiar sight in the UK and Ireland. With over 400 installations, the company hopes that the same will be the case in France as they showcase the system at Omaha.

Lee Penrose, of the STRI, is interrogated...

What is your number?

What is your position?

Project Manager / Consultant

How long have you been in the industry?

Just over eight years

How did you get into it?

Whilst at university I conducted a research project for Dr Stephen Baker, at STRI, investigating outcourse construction in greens. The time I spent working with Steve and the team was great and I took the opportunity to work for a forward looking company!

What other jobs have you done?

Sales, built conservatories, managed Burger King and worked on turf construction and maintenance.

What do you like about your current job?

Definitely, the variety. My life is impossible to predict day to day, and that is a great thing. I spend a lot of time travelling and meeting new people. I love being at the cutting edge of the turf industry and, through the STRI, helping to steer things in the right direction for our clients.

What changes have you seen during your time?

Technology is now king and we are slowly seeing that creep into the industry and, in particular, course management.

We are moving into an era where quantitative analysis and prediction, using tools like the STRI Performance Meter, will help take golf course presentation and playability to the next level.

What do you like about your current job?

I have 3 great passions in my life: 1 – My wife and 2 daughters, Mary and Abigail 2 – Fly fishing for salmon and wild trout 3 – Playing golf. I spend a lot of time traveling and working on things like the Golf Environment Awards.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Who knows? I have an inherent need to re-invent myself every few years. I will no doubt still be involved with STRI and working within the industry but hopefully for more money!

Who do you consider as best friends in the industry?

Numerous, but I particularly enjoy annual jaunts shared with Dr Micah “Buckie” Woods (Director, Asian Turfgrass Centre) and have spent many happy hours with Simon Elsrew (Head GAA Turf & Landscape, Syngenta). Who do you consider to be your lucky number?

215 – not sure why!

Lee has picked Shona Garner, Consultant

Oxfordshire Gardens

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month’s lucky number...
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What other jobs have you done? I held various positions within the industry – such as turf farm manager and turf consultant.

What do you like about your current job? The variety. My life is impossible to predict day to day, and that is a great thing. I spend a lot of time travelling and meeting new people. I love being at the cutting edge of the turf industry and, through the STRI, helping to steer things in the right direction for our clients.

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What do you like to do in your spare time? I have 3 great passions in my life: 1 – My wife and 2 daughters, Mary and Abigail 2 – Fly fishing for salmon and wild trout 3 – Shoveling snow. I spend my evenings working on things like the Golf Environment Awards.

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What’s your number? 

Oxfordshire Gardens

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Sanli LB696 self propelled pedestrian mowers share the same attributes as the LB660, however they have aarser cutting head and 96cm cutting width. They are supplied with a general purpose 60 litre grass collector and can be used to maintain mowing and edging requirements as well as for a variety of groundcare requirements on the 12 acre site.

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The multi-million pound deal has been secured with London-based Lynch Plant Hire and includes a fleet of 54 tracked excavator models in addition to two wheeled excavators – manufactured at JCB Heavy Products in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

The excavator order was placed in response to increased demand from Lynch Plant Hire’s customers for machines which can operate in the demanding road and rail sectors. Several of the machines have already been delivered and are already performing on high profile projects across the UK. This includes the JCB tracked excavator models carrying groundworks as part of the M25 motorway widening scheme.

High-profile Oxfordshire visitor attraction, Waterperry Gardens, has taken delivery of a pair of Sanli LB696 self propelled pedestrian mowers to help maintain a variety of formal lawns and other grassed areas within the magnificent 3.2ha ornamental garden.

Handed over by Sanli UK’s Area Manager, Claire Morris, the two mowers are to be used by Waterperry’s three full-time gardeners. The mowers incorporate operator-friendly features such as comfort-grip handles, 60 litre grass collectors and single-point cutting height adjustment.

Located near the village of Wheatley, east of Oxford, Waterperry Gardens was, until 1971, home to a school of horticulture for ladies. Today, the gardens at Waterperry have evolved into an oasis of calm and beauty where visitors can enjoy the spectacular formal gardens, which include a waterlily canal, a rose garden and the celebrated 60m long colour border, said to be one of the finest purely herbaceous borders in the UK.

Sanli LB696 self propelled pedestrian mowers share the same attributes as the LB660, however they have aarser cutting head and 96cm cutting width. They are supplied with a general purpose 60 litre grass collector and can be used to maintain mowing and edging requirements as well as for a variety of groundcare requirements on the 12 acre site.

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For many years Club Car has been the official golf car of the European Tour. This year saw additions to the Tour trucks used to transport the vehicles to and from each event.

“We’re delighted to continue our commitment to the European Tour,” said Roberto Gorostiaga, Director of Sales for Club Car Europe.

“Club Car entourage covers the European Tour’s multiple venues across the continent. This year sees additions to the Tour trucks supplied by Club Car is designed to fit a specific purpose and address the needs for staging, television and rules cars. Every car is customised to the Tour and vice versa. We are proud to be part of the European Tour.”

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Landing at The Berkshire

Scott MacCallum touches down at the destination of this year’s BIGGA National Championship, taking place on the 4th and 5th of October.
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The Berkshire
**CoUrSE FEAtUrE**

The Berkshire, near Ascot.

iconic golf clubs in the country being played at one of the most

Kubota and Charterhouse, is Championship, sponsored by

This year's BIGGA National

CoUrSE FEAtUrE

of the Home Counties’ stockbroker

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As testimonials go they don't

“All in all, there is no finer place

“In particular, the par three holes are as good as any to be found, with each having its own character and not like the 250 yard tests that are a feature of contemporary design. However they are just as hard and in some cases, even more punishing to a bad shot.

“All in all, there is no finer place to play golf!”

As testimonials go they don’t come much better than that and those who tee up in this heartland of the Home Counties’ stockbroker belt at the beginning of October will be able to see whether Sir Michael was on the mark.

While there will be a full field competing over the two wonderful heathland courses one of the main instigators of BIGGA’s visit will not be there, not in an official capacity, at any rate.

Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE, BIGGA President

“The Berkshire is now totally self sufficient for water with all water that comes off the clubhouse and the course being collected in the reservoir, while we have our own bore hole for use in the summer months. We don’t rely on outside water at all and are saving approximately £40,000 a year by not having to use mains water. With the reservoir costing us in the region of £180,000 it doesn’t take long to get your money back and it means you are ticking all the right boxes for the environment.”

The vast majority of the woodland management work was carried out in-house and the legacy that has left the club is a group of staff who are trained and qualified in the use of chainsaws.

“It was something we could really get on with at times like last winter when we couldn’t get on to the golf course.”

But don’t run away with the idea that Chris and his team spent so much time in the woods they were on first name terms with the nation’s picnicking bears.

They have also built a fantastic practice ground, importing half a million tonnes of soil.

“Any golfer who has not visited this marvellous club with its two magnificent courses, the Red and the Blue, has missed one of the great pleasures in golf”

Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE, BIGGA President

“This year’s BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, is being played at one of the most iconic golf clubs in the country – The Berkshire, near Ascot.

But don’t just take my word for it. Listen to what five time Amateur Champion and BIGGA President, Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE, says about the club.

“Any golfer who has not visited this marvellous club with its two magnificent courses, the Red and the Blue, has missed one of the great pleasures in golf.”

Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE, BIGGA President

“The goals were to continue improving the course and I was concerned about the woodland at the time. The headline of the article was ‘A Woodland Course with Heather’,” Chris recalled.

“A huge amount of woodland management has been carried out since. It’s expensive to carry out and often seen as a luxury, but if you don’t do it you lose heather and the fine grasses, while drainage can become blocked. Having done the work we have we have seen improvement in drainage and turf quality.

“The award has inspired for a number of reasons – the air that we have given it to breath, an aeration programme and a new irrigation system which has allowed us a full growing season through the summer.”

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“We are assessing the bunkers with Thomson, Perrett and Lobb with the aim of getting greater consistency, design and playability. That’s the next big project and I’m