The project is split into ten different phases with the objective always to make sure that the current members always have nine holes to play and that means putting in some temporary holes, which might be there for two or three years,” explained Julian, who added that the one downside of an in-fill generated project is that it can only move at the pace of the house building and construction industry which generated so much of the in-fill.

“It would have been easy to have given the members nine little par-3s, but nobody wanted that.”

Part of the brief was that the golf course had to act as a car park for the cricket ground when Test matches, ODIs or big Twenty20 matches come to town.

“It was a condition of planning that we incorporate an exit route through the course for cars attending the cricket while the 1st fairway is used for corporate parking. The road is also used as the haul road for the lorries moving around the site for depositing the imported material fill,” explained Julian.

Once the new course has been completed new areas for parking – spurs off the road – will be identified.

“We are lucky that where the car parking is, it is relatively dry. In fact we had a few hundred cars on our existing 1st fairway just a couple of weeks ago and you wouldn’t know,” said Julian.

While the quality of the inert in-fill arriving at the site may vary, what goes into the construction will meet very exacting standards.

“During the construction it is my job to see that all materials, the gravels, the rootzones etc are all tested by a laboratory and ensure that it performs to the correct specification ie particle size, percolation rates, compatibility etc. We spot test every 500 tonnes that comes on site to ensure that it is within the tolerance levels of the lab tested materials. I am absolutely comfortable that there are no compromises as anyone is only as good as their last job and this is a high profile project, Keltbray will ensure that the golf course is constructed to the highest standard.”

The timescale for the new course is around four to five years but is dependent on the rate of the importation.

“The time scale is fine as we will always have nine holes open for play, while nine holes are growing in then we will flip them over and let the new holes grow in.

“Within the temporary lay-out we are losing two of the existing greens so we will build temporary greens out of the the rootzone and turf from the old greens,” explained Julian, for whom all the experience he has accumulated over 35 years of greenkeeping is coming together on this one project.

“I’ve got the greenkeeping experience, and the construction and the grow-in skills all coming together and it is down to me to ensure that the Rose Bowl gets what is specified within the contract. It’s certainly the most exciting project I’ve ever been involved with,”said Julian.

When the major cricket matches take place Julian and his team swap their dark blue uniforms for the light blue of the cricket ground staff and join Nigel Gray’s team.

“If you love cricket, as I do, the chance to get involved in Test matches or one dayers is fantastic. The golf course is closed and we’re under Nigel’s wing.

“If it’s a lovely sunny day you’ve got little to do, but on the Saturday of the Sri Lanka Test we had the covers on and off 10 times and, believe me, they are heavy when they are covered in water.”

Julian and Nigel often talk about the issues that affect their two strands of the sports’ turf maintenance business.

“It is really interesting to learn about preparing a cricket wicket. If you look at what we do for golf, we don’t like compaction, but with cricket they compact as hard as they can in the summer and then relieve it in the winter by spiking etc.”

Nigel has been Head Groundsman for 21 years – including 10 at the previous County Ground, and having been in at the start at The....
Rose Bowl he was able to construct the square exactly as he wanted. “The top layer is four inches of screened clay/loam, the next eight inches is unscreened clay/loam and the eight inches below that is road stone,” revealed Nigel, who added that following successful experiments on a pitch including more sand, three more of the square’s 20 pitches are being rebuilt over the winter in this style. “We spent a lot of time having One Day Internationals so we approached the Test Match like having five ODI’s in a row. I was confident that the pitch was pretty good, and that we were doing the right things in the right way, so that took a lot of the pressure off,” he explained.

“Basically all pitch preparation follows a similar path and you are trying to create one which is hard, fast, bouncy, although you have to adjust procedures for a one day game - you wouldn’t want it to be quite as bouncy as a Test match pitch because over five days you want players to have a chance to display all their abilities. For a one dayer, you want the bat to be able to hit the ball and runs to be scored, which makes for an entertaining game.”

The procedure employed on a one day pitch to reduce the bounce flies against any thoughts a lay person would have on the matter. “We probably roll a one day pitch a little more which has the effect of calming it down. You can go beyond the point of rolling it to make it bouncier and it deadens it – there is an optimum point at which you get maximum bounce,” explained Nigel, who added that the aim of a Test Match groundsman is, weather permitting, to have the game going into the last afternoon.

Preparing a pitch to suit the home bowling attack is also regarded as fair practice. “England have three six foot seven bowlers, so if we produce a bouncy pitch we were going to get more out of it than the Sri Lankans, who are six foot, tops. “It was in England’s interest to produce fast bouncy pitches and at home you have the chance to produce something like that,” said Nigel, who prior to Julian’s arrival oversaw the maintenance of the golf course as well.

With the hotel - which will overlook the ground and double up as a Media Centre and corporate hospitality venue for matches - due to commence construction in the near future, and the golf course underway, the opportunity to ensure year round usage is getting closer. but in the meantime the Rose Bowl is also being used as a popular concert venue, with acts including the likes of Oasis and Neil Diamond strutting their stuff while the fireworks displays are also extremely popular.

“Build a stage on the outfield facing east and cover the square with trackway,” explained Nigel. “When we had a Billy Joel concert a couple of years ago we had a T20 match on the Saturday, started building the stage on the Sunday, had the concert on the Thursday and then had another T20 the following Tuesday.”

As part of the planning regulations for the golf course environmental consultant, Matt Johns, has been a regular visitor ensuring environmental issues were at the top of everyone’s thoughts. “Put together some very detailed management plans which were a condition of the planning approval. “There is a landscape management plan; a woodland management plan and a nature conservation plan which all come together,” explained Matt, who is on site at least once a fortnight as the course is constructed.

It certainly is an exciting project and with a method of construction which may prove to be a model for many future new or redeveloped course construction processes and once fully completed it should satisfy the desires of both golfers and cricketers.

Below: The greenkeeping team.
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The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

BIGGA’s Quarter Century is a reason to celebrate, writes Scott MacCallum

Harrogate Week is always a special occasion for all those who attend, but Harrogate Week 2012 will be particularly so, as it not only celebrates the 25th anniversary of BIGGA itself, but also 100 years since the first surviving recorded minutes of BIGGA’s oldest ancestor – the very first greenkeeping association.

Both events will be recognised during the week with a Celebration Evening to mark BIGGA’s Silver Jubilee and an exhibition in the Halls to commemorate the centenary of greenkeeping associations. The rate of change since 1987, never mind 1912, within the industry has been truly remarkable and Harrogate Week symbolises that. The technology on show during Harrogate 2012 would have had NASA astronauts opened jawed with amazement in 1987, and there is no sign of progress slowing.

Whatever the task which is required on the golf course, there will be a boffin in an R&D Department somewhere, looking at ways of making your professional life better or easier.

The fruits of their labours to date will be there for all to see in one of the four Halls at Harrogate International Centre, while the world renowned Continue to Learn programme ensures that those who take part are in a position to keep on top of all those industry developments.

It is a combination which has proved a very productive cocktail for all concerned over the years and, coupled with the unique Harrogate atmosphere for the Apres Show, it creates a never to be forgotten occasion for all who attend.
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Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA

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The occasion will comprise a drinks reception and convivial dinner all designed to give ample opportunity to catch up with friends from across the industry. Achievements since 1987, individually and collectively, will also be recognised and it will give a chance for every one to raise a glass to BIGGA.

A host of dignitaries will be in attendance, including Ken Schofield OBE, who led the PGA European Tour for 30 years. Ken, right, will be making a Toast to the Association.

‘BIGGA has come a very long way in 25 years and the Celebratory Dinner will give us a chance to pay tribute to everyone and everything that has made that possible. ’I am sure it will be a memorable occasion for all who attend,’ said BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Lowe.

The Celebratory Evening takes place at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate on January 24, 2012.

Tickets are available to BIGGA members and guests, and can be purchased from Rachel or Angela at BIGGA. Tel: 01447 833800.

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WHERE TO EAT...

When you're feeling peckish or want to mix business with please-

Cattleman’s Association, Kings Road Tel: 01423 561456 Tex Mex
Craigs Restaurant & Bar Tel: 01423 530233 Tapas
Le Bistrot Perre Tel: 01423 530702 French
Thai Elephant Tel: 01423 530999 Thai
Salas Posada Tel: 01423 561515 Mexican
William and Victoria Tel: 01423 566883 English

THINGS TO DO AND WHERE TO PARTY...

The Moko Lounge, Kings Road Tel: 01423 529862
The Viper Rooms, Parliament Street Tel: 01423 530567
Odeon Cinema, East Parade Tel: 01423 524407
Harrogate Theatre, Oxford Street Tel: 01423 520116

How to get to Harrogate

Rail
Harrogate is served by the main line stations in Leeds and York. Trains run approximately every 30 minutes at peak
time. Harrogate International Centre is a 10 minute walk from the station.

Air
Leeds Bradford International Airport www.hbia.co.uk
Leeds/Bradford airport is approximately 12 miles from Harrogate. Taxis are avail-

Beast Bar Montpellier

Cattleman’s Association

Leeds Bradford International Airport 45 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

For all other rail services to Harrogate

All town centre car parks are open 24 hours.

Showground) A661 to Harrogate Interna
tional Centre (Great Yorkshire Event Centre (Great Yorkshire Showground). From the A1M: exit A59 towards

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Manchester International Airport www.manchesterairport.co.uk
Manchester International Airport is situ-
ated halfway between London and Edin-
burgh, 75 miles from Harrogate. Public
Transport links are available 24 hours a
day offering services to Harrogate via
Leeds or York.

For more information on accommodation and bookings visit:
www.reservation-highway.co.uk access code “bigga”
or Tel: 01423 525577.

Manchester International Airport
Manchester International Airport is situ-
ated halfway between London and Edin-
burgh, 75 miles from Harrogate. Public
Transport links are available 24 hours a
day offering services to Harrogate via
Leeds or York.

Rail
Harrogate is served by the main line stations in Leeds and York. Trains run approximately every 30 minutes at peak
time. Harrogate International Centre is a 10 minute walk from the station.

Air
Leeds Bradford International Airport www.hbia.co.uk
Leeds/Bradford airport is approximately 12 miles from Harrogate. Taxis are avail-

Beast Bar Montpellier

Cattleman’s Association

Leeds Bradford International Airport 45 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

For all other rail services to Harrogate

All town centre car parks are open 24 hours.

Showground) A661 to Harrogate Interna
tional Centre (Great Yorkshire Event Centre (Great Yorkshire Showground) A661 to Harrogate Interna-
tional Centre. If you are planning to drive

Manchester International Airport www.manchesterairport.co.uk
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Where to eat, sleep and socialise in Harrogate...

Harrogate Week is unlike any other event. It is your chance to meet and interact with decision makers 24 hours a day. After the show closes there are endless opportunities to network in the Harrogate bars and restaurants with fellow turf professionals.

As you can imagine, Harrogate Week proves a busy time for the pleasant spa town. With much to see and do, Harrogate offers fine cuisine and a lively nightlife along with a distinguished heritage, famous for its Turkish baths.

WHERE TO EAT...

When you’re feeling peckish or want to mix business with pleasure...

- **La Tasca**
  - Tel: 01423 500855
- **Damn Yankee**
  - Tel: 01423 506542
- **Drum and Monkey**
  - Tel: 01423 506466
- **Joe Rigatoni**
  - Tel: 01423 506370
- **Thai Elephant**
  - Tel: 01423 506566
- **William and Victoria**
  - Tel: 01423 506683

**WHERE TO STAY**

Holiday Inn Harrogate, Kings Road .......................... Tel: 0871 423 4876
Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road .............................. Tel: 01423 500055
Studley Hotel, Swan Road ............................... Tel: 01423 506425
Grants Hotel, Swan Road ............................... Tel: 01423 506046
Magistic Hotel, Ripon Road .......................... Tel: 0870 1688833
Crown Hotel, Crown Place .............................. Tel: 01423 567755
Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road .............................. Tel: 01423 504905
Cedar Court Hotel, Knaresborough Rd. .......... Tel: 01423 858585
St George Hotel, Ripon Road .......................... Tel: 01423 561431
Kimberley Hotel, Knaresborough Road .......... Tel: 01423 560613
White Hart Hotel, Cold Bath Road ............... Tel: 01423 505681
Alexa House, Ripon Road ............................. Tel: 01423 507988
Yorkshire Hotel, West Park ............................ Tel: 01423 560071
Travelodge, The Gimmel .......... Tel: 0871 9642638
Shannon Court, Dragon Avenue .................. Tel: 01423 506855
Grafton, Franklin Mount ......................... Tel: 01423 508491
Cambridgey, Kings Road ............................. Tel: 01423 561618

For more information on accommodation and bookings visit: www.reservation-highway.co.uk access code “bigga” or Tel: 01423 525577.

**THINGS TO DO AND WHERE TO PARTY**

- The Moko Lounge, Kings Road .......... Tel: 01423 520862
- The Viper Rooms, Parliament Street ........ Tel: 01423 520567
- Odeon Cinema, East Parade .......................... Tel: 0871 2244007
- Harrogate Theatre, Oxford Street ................. Tel: 01423 520116

**How to get to Harrogate**

**Rail**

Harrogate is served by the main line stations in Leeds and York. Trains run approximately every 30 minutes at peak time. Harrogate International Centre is a 10 minute walk from the station.

East Coast trains has announced the start of new services to provide a long awaited direct link, from London to Harrogate.

The direct trains are shown on the East Coast timetable: www.eastcoast.co.uk

For all other rail services to Harrogate contact National Rail Enquiries on 0845 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

**Air**

Leeds Bradford International Airport www.lba.co.uk

Leeds/Bradford airport is approximately 12 miles from Harrogate. Taxis are available at the airport at a cost of approximately £18. You may wish to visit the following websites for flight information.

www.flybe.com
www.jet2.com
www.aiswestcoast.com

**Sea**

Direct Ferries www.directferries.co.uk

Direct Ferries are part of Direct Ferries Ltd, an online travel provider based in the UK offering ferry crossings to the UK from the continent. Registered agents of the ferry operators are listed on the website, they sail to 14 Countries and 54 ferry ports on over 60 routes.

North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles from Harrogate.

**Park & Ride**

BTME & Clubhouse provides a FREE Park & Ride service from the Yorkshire Event Centre (Great Yorkshire Showground). From the A1M: exit A59 towards Harrogate, follow the ring road to the Yorkshire Event Centre (Great Yorkshire Showground) A661 to Harrogate International Centre. If you are planning to drive to Harrogate, this service will help you avoid any traffic problems in town and save you looking for a parking space.

The shuttle service will run at times:
- Tuesday 20 January 08.30 to 17.30
- Wednesday 21 January 08.30 to 17.30
- Thursday 22 January 08.30 to 16.30

Pay and Display parking is in operation in most town centre streets in Harrogate. Charges and restrictions apply on Sundays and Bank Holidays in all parking areas unless otherwise stated.

**Hotels**

**Coaching**

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www.aiswestcoast.com
Tap into the R&A

There is great support out there for you if you only know where to look. The R&A Scholarship Programme is well worth considering

Did you know that The R&A supports greenkeepers that want to further their education?
Did you know that R&A Scholarships are available to greenkeepers studying higher education courses (HNC and above) in golf course management at Elmwood and Myerscough Colleges?

Since 2004, The R&A has invested over £330,000 in its Greenkeeper Scholarship Programme, helping 109 students progress along their education path.

On Tuesday, January 24, from 11.30am, at the Show-floor Theatre by the BIGGA stand, you will be able to hear how you can become an R&A Scholar and benefit from a financial contribution, and the experience of being associated with The Open Championship.

Not only do R&A Scholars get financial support towards the cost of their education, they also have the opportunity to engage with The R&A through a website dedicated to Scholars past and present.

A total of 12 Scholars, each year, get to attend a field study week on the island of South Uist to spend time at Askernish Golf Club with guest speakers who discuss the architectural development, natural history and greenkeeping practices at this unique course. This is a life-changing experience.

Candidates for an R&A Scholarship are selected by the colleges, with input from The R&A. The level of support available varies dependent on the nature of the course being studied and where in the world the student is travelling from – anything from £500 to £5,000 per Scholar for each year of their studies.

The R&A Greenkeeper Scholarship Programme is a truly international scheme. As well as home-grown greenkeepers, the programme has helped students from China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Nepal, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and the USA.

You can read more about our Scholars in the ‘New’ section of The R&A website, www.randa.co.uk or through the Harrogate Week.

The session during Harrogate Week will include:
• An introduction to The R&A Greenkeeper Scholarship Programme by Steve Isaac of The R&A
• Advice on how to become an R&A Scholar and how the programme operates within the colleges by Dr Andy Owen of Myerscough College
• Information on the field study visit to Askernish by Paul Miller of Elmwood College
• An insight into the benefits of the programme from R&A Scholar, James Hutchinson, who is now a greenkeeper at Fairhaven Golf Club in Lancashire.

There will be ample opportunity to discuss the programme with the speakers and a number of other Scholars after the formal presentations. If you are considering taking a HE course in greenkeeping or want more information on The R&A Greenkeeper Scholarship Programme, come to the Showfloor Theatre at 11.50 am on Tuesday, January 24.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Proven performance across the UK

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