TORO NOW HAS DPA CUTTING UNITS ON ALL ITS REEL MOWERS.

TORO first began manufacturing engines for tractors in the USA almost 100 years ago. Today we produce some of the finest turf machinery, landscaping and irrigation equipment in the world. Like our renowned DPA (Dual Precision Adjustment) cutting unit, now available for the first time on the Reelmaster 3100-D triple mower. DPA allows the bedknife to be adjusted quickly and simply and offers an unrivalled quality and consistency of cut. What’s more, because it holds its settings for longer, DPA will also save you more time than any other quick-adjustment system. Now available across the full range, DPA is proving popular at many of the country’s leading golf clubs and sporting venues. Please contact us today for a free demonstration.

Call 01480 226800 or visit www.toro.com

Harrogate delivers once again

Those who had a feeling of trepidation in the lead up to Harrogate Week 2011, concerns brought on by worldwide recession and the horrible weather we endured in December, saw their fears dissipate as soon as BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster, cut the green ribbon to proclaim the Show open.

The traditional buzz was there, and in abundance too, albeit assisted by the real life trees bygones had an attraction on its stand, and the Halls soon filled up. The fact that the final attendance was just over 6,000, 2.3% up on last year was a genuine bonus. Harrogate has always been a partnership of commerce and education and it would be fair to say that the strong Continue to Learn Exhibitors, that is indeed true, but to expect offers, but through budget constraints were from the economic realities is a little unfair. I was certainly disappointed on behalf of those companies who would desperately have liked to have given themselves the boost to the start of the year that Harrogate Week traditionally offers, but through budget constraints were unable to do so. They will be welcomed back with open arms when they are in a position to re-book.

Those who did exhibit were delighted that they had done so. One of them, VerniGrund, a company in the new Eivio Zone which was exhibiting in Harrogate for the first time, actually said that it was the best and most professionally run show they had ever attended.

Harrogate Week 2011 was also the end of an era as it was the last that John Pemberton will attend in an official capacity. Having taken the decision to stand down as Chief Executive, John was the recipient of good wishes from the many, many friends and associates he had made during his 18 years with the Association.

Although he is still officially with the Association until the end of April, John will be spending his last couple of months working from home. BIGGA HOUSE will not be the same without his infectious personality and desire to do anything for anyone. He has left no stone unturned in making BIGGA as strong an organisation as it can be, particularly during his time as Chief Executive, and there are countless members who, directly or indirectly, owe him a great deal.

People will point to the fact that the actual Show was smaller than it has been in the past and, with slightly under three halls of exhibitors, that is indeed true, but to expect companies in our industry sector to be immune from the economic realities is a little unfair. I was certainly disappointed on behalf of those companies who would desperately have liked to have given themselves the boost to the start of the year that Harrogate Week traditionally offers, but through budget constraints were unable to do so. They will be welcomed back with open arms when they are in a position to re-book.

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Editor
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He will not be disappearing entirely, and I am sure he will still be giving the benefit of his knowledge and experience to the Association whenever he is asked, but he will no doubt make the most of the free time he has to look forward to.

Scott MacCallum  
Editor
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Scott MacCallum catches up with Gordon Child, recipient of BIGGA’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

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The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited
BIGGA and The Golf Environment Organisation (GEO) have established a partnership that will see the two bodies collaborate in promoting sustainability in golf facility management.

The partnership seeks to make sustainability easier for greenkeepers and Course Managers to understand and provide support for their ongoing, continual improvement efforts. Through the promotion of GEO Certified, the aim is also to enable golf facilities to attain credible and lasting recognition for ongoing efforts as we all move forward in an increasingly sustainability minded world, he said.

“We know that many other companies and organisations are also critical to this effort, both current partners of BIGGA and GEO, and also potential partners. For that reason we have drafted an action plan which will enable all those who are interested to get involved and gain visibility in a cohesive approach to this important subject,” added Andrew. Jonathan Smith, CEO of GEO, added: “We are delighted to make this announcement after many months of discussion. GEO is one of the world’s largest and most respected greenkeeper associations, so it is important to us, and endorsement of our work is incredibly valuable.”

Golf Industry Professionals present more than £30,000 to help for Heroes

A golf industry group which conquered the Three Peaks Challenge has presented a cheque for £30,169.57 to Help for Heroes. The team of 11 friends from all parts of the golf industry took just 22 hours and 45 minutes to climb the UK’s three highest mountains – Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike last July, in aid of Help for Heroes’ Battle Back initiative.

Colin Mayes, Jim Conlan, Tristan Hall and Andy Owen, Burtfield Golf & Leisure; Kevin Hart, Club Car; Andrew Brown, Toro; Daniel Hochan De Vere, Simon Thorpe, Expressions Partnership; John Weir, Coneystone Golf; Chris Lomas, Secretary at Worplesdon Golf Club, and course designer, Jon Gaunt, joined servicemen benefiting from Battle Back Golf at Burtfield Golf Club for a round of golf and to present the cheque. Kevin Hart said: “Everyone was astounded with the money raised, which reflects the generosity of the golf industry and the support of this worthwhile cause.”

Any golf manufacturer, golf course or professional who would like to help Battle Back Golf with the provision of equipment, tee times, coaching or anything that may assist injured soldiers please contact Kevin Hart at kevin_hart@clubcar.com.

The photograph shows The Three Peaks team handing over a cheque for £30,169.57 to members of the Battle Back Golf initiative.
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NEW ROLE FOR PAUL
Symbol has appointed Paul Lowe as Regional Manager for the North West of England. Paul brings 22 years of greenkeeping experience with him, having spent the majority of his career as Course Manager at Rhuddlan Golf Course and the past four years as Course Manager at Bromborough Golf Club.

Paul, a member of the Congresbury Men group, committed to environmentally sustainable management, said: “I am delighted to join the Symbol team. Moving from greenkeeping to Symbol has been a natural progression for me as we share the same passion for creating sustainable courses and landscapes built on healthy living soils.”

Adaptability in the Snow
French manufacturer Eltisia enjoyed a sales boom as users of its ride-on rotary mowers have been rushing to buy snow clearing attachments and low-belt grinders for their existing Hydro mowers so that they wouldn’t be caught out in the next big freeze.

With its wide range of attachments, the range of Eltisia mowers can be transformed into multi-tasking, all-year-round workhorses for a wide-range of applications including snow clearing and salt/sand spreading.

“At times like this, end users require the true multi-tasking value of an Eltisia ride-on,” commented Les Morris, Eltisia UK’s General Manager.

“Our accessories such as the snow plough of salt/pavement spreader are keenly priced so keeping roadways and paths clear is a very cost effective operation. Our customers have discovered that for a relatively small investment they can be prepared without the need to have expensive dedicated equipment tying up idle during long periods of the year.”

For further information, please contact Paul Lowe on 02920 860 22 or email paul.lowe@symbol-bayer.com.

GOLF INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS PRESENT MORE THAN £30,000 TO HELP FOR HEROES

A golf industry group which conquered the Three Peaks Challenge has presented a cheque for £30,169.57 to Help for Heroes.

The team of 11 friends from all parts of the golf industry took just 24 hours and 46 minutes to climb the UK’s three highest mountains – Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike last July, in aid of Help for Heroes’ Battle Back initiative.

Colin Mayes, Jim Conlan, Tristan Hall and Andy Owen, Burhill Golf & Leisure; Kevin Hart, Club Car; Andrew Brown, Toro; Daniel Hochan; De Vere; Simon Thorpe, Expressions Partnership, John Weir, Conquestmore Golf; Chris Lomas, Secretary at Worpleston Golf Club, and course designer, Gary Gascot; joined servicemen benefitting from Battle Back Golf at Burhill Golf Club for a round of golf and to present the cheque.

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The photograph shows The Three Peaks team handing over a cheque for £30,169.57 to members of the Battle Back Golf initiative.
Farol Takes on John Deere Turf Franchise

John Deere has announced that the Farol branches at Milton Common in Oxfordshire and Hinckley, in Leicestershire, have become turf & utility equipment dealers, As of last month both branches will sell and support John Deere’s full range of professional turf equipment, which includes mowers, compact and utility tractors, utility vehicles, aerators, sprayers and irrigation systems. The Milton Common branch will cover Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, while the new Farol branch at Hinckley will service the Midlands area.

Farol has created a new turf business division, which will be managed initially by the group’s recently-appointed Operations Director, Dave Roberts. “This is an exciting development for Farol, and a natural expansion of our successful John Deere agricultural business,” said Dave. “This signing of Farol as a professional turf dealer in the Midlands strengthens our dealership presence in this area,” added David Hart, John Deere’s Turf & Utility Equipment Division Manager for the UK and Ireland. “Farol is a well-established business with a strong focus on first class customer and product support. Alongside our ongoing Dealer of the Future initiative, it reflects our continued efforts to build the strongest dealership network for turf equipment in the UK.”

25 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR CAMPEY TURF CARE

The 25th Anniversary of Campey Turf Care Systems will take place throughout the coming months with a number of events aimed at highlighting the achievements of its staff, the loyalty of its customers and the continuing confidence of the manufacturers which provide such an excellent range of products. All of these elements have played a part in ensuring the success of Campey Turf Care Systems as well as a winning combination of dedication to quality of products and professionalism of after sales support.

A display of the products and brand names that have become synonymous with Campey were on display at BTME including the Dakota - 407 Mounted Top-dresser and the Imants Shockwave which are typical of the latest generation surfactant that helps to weather-proof your greens.

Handmade Timber Bins

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Unique patented chemistry
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Lely UK has announced the death of one of its employees, Simon Gale.

Simon, 40, passed away following a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Helen, whom he married shortly before his death.

Simon joined Lely in 2000 as the turf machinery distributor’s torso key accounts product specialist, where he soon established himself as a popular and much relied upon member of the team. As well as providing hands-on servicing and parts support to customers, he was also responsible for training operators and mechanics, imparting his considerable skills and expertise to a plethora of industry peers.

Professor Beard is Greg Evans, who will be conducting a talk about his greens methodology. The annual GCSAI conference will be celebrated throughout the coming months with a plethora of industry peers. October 1990 saw him leave to take up the post of head mechanic with one of Turner’s major customers, Hesston Brothers, where he was responsible for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of the company’s extensive machinery fleet.

Three years later he joined Ransomes dealer ET Breakwell. Three years later he joined Ransomes dealer ET Breakwell. Ransomes Jacobsen’s Sales Director, Alan Poedert, who had known and worked with Simon for 21 years, concludes: “Simon was a good friend and colleague with whom I spent many years working in various roles. He was always optimistic and had a positive and ambitious attitude to life, making his loss at such an early age even more tragic. He leaves behind a great many friends within Ransomes Jacobsen and the industry.”
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“Farol is a well established business with a strong focus on first class customer and product support. Alongside our ongoing Dealer of the Future initiative, it reflects our continued efforts to build the strongest dealership network for turf equipment in the UK.”

Irish Conference

The annual GCSAI conference will take place at Knightsbrook Hotel and Golf Club just outside Dublin. Speakers include Professors James Beard who wrote, ‘Turf Management for Golf Courses’. Lining up alongside Professor Beard is Greg Evans, who will be considering a talk about his greens methodology.

The conference is open to all greenkeepers and groundsman across the British Isles and if you are interested in coming along please contact Maria Behan on +3538779 17789 or email her at maria.behan@calibresupport.ie

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All of these elements have played a part in ensuring the success of Campey Turf Care Systems as well as a winning combination of dedication to quality of products and professionalism of after sales support.

A display of the products and brand names that have become synonymous with Campey were on display at BTME including the Dakota - 407 Mounted Top-dresser and the Imants Shockwave which are typical of the products introduced by Campey.

Also on the stand was the Vredo Super Compact seeder and the Timan - RC-750 remote control brush cutter & slope mower introduced last season

Simon Gale

Lely UK has announced the death of one of its employees, Simon Gale.

Simon, 40, passed away following a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Helen, whom he married shortly before his death.

Simon joined Lely in 2007 as the turf machinery distributor’s Toro key accounts product specialist, where he soon established himself as a popular and much relied upon member of the team. As well as providing hands-on servicing and parts support to customers, he was also responsible for training operators and mechanics, imparting his considerable skills and expertise to a plethora of industry peers.

Prior to joining Lely, Simon spent the lion’s share of his career at Ransomes and some of its key dealerships.

October 1990 saw him leave to take up the post of head mechanic with one of Turf’s major customers, Hewison Brothers, where he was responsible for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of the company’s extensive machinery fleet. Three years later he joined Ransomes dealer ST Breakwell.

Ransomes Jacobsen’s Sales Director, Alan Peckett, who had known and worked with Simon for 21 years, concludes: “Simon was a true professional. A good friend and colleague with whom I spent many years working in various roles. He was always optimistic and had a positive and ambitious attitude to life, making his loss at such an early age even more tragic. He leaves behind a great many friends within Ransomes Jacobsen and the industry.”

Lely UK has appointed Tim Thorpe as the new Toro key accounts product specialist. Tim, 27, joined Lely in 2009 as the turf machinery distributor’s Toro parts support and training manager.

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GEO Certified™ International Sustainability Award for Auchterarder Golf Club

The first traditional UK members’ club to be awarded GEO Certified status, Auchterarder is a sustainability leader in Scottish golf. As they join the international group of clubs that has received the prestigious GEO designation, the Perthshire club can be proud in the knowledge they are positioned among the world’s most sustainably operated.

Archie Dunn, Head Greenkeeper at the club for 14 years and National Director of SIGGA, is out to show how far away from innovation the need for leadership GEO Certification is an important ongoing project for Auchterarder Golf Club, allowing us to shape our environmental programme and provide a basis from which we will work to make our club more sustainable year on year. “The targeted support we’re receiving from Sustainability Adviser, Elspeth Coutts, has brought our planning, monitoring and recording into line with GEO requirements, a huge help on the whole learning curve and look forward to developing relationships further with our new clients.,”

For more information visit www.organicsoilsystems.co.uk

Harrogate Week: The Natural Choice For Company Launch

Solid fertility company Organic Soil Systems selected the 2011 BTME at Harrogate as the venue for their UK launch.

The Company Chairman, Ronald Oldfield, explained, “HTM is widely regarded as Europe’s leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals, with attendance consistently in the thousands. This was exactly the right forum for us to hold the official launch of our world leading soil fertility products and technology in the UK, given HTM’s location in the city of Harrogate.

We have a high profile presence throughout the exhibition and look forward to developing relationships further with our new clients.”

For further information visit www.organicsoilsystems.co.uk

Wimbledon Seminar

A total of 140 grounds and golf course managers gathered at The All England Club recently for a seminar at which prominent speakers addressed the challenges of preparing turf for major events, hosted by Scotts Professional. Head Groundsman, Eddie Seaward MBE, opened the day’s programme with an insight into the logistical challenges he and his team face in preparation for an intensive summer of sport in 2012, which will see the world’s top tennis stars competing twice in a matter of weeks.

The hectic period begins in June with the regular Championship fortnight. The courts will then be brought back into action at the end of July for a week of Olympic tennis.

Simon Barnsley, then took to the floor to discuss the development of Primo Maxx, currently under test for tournament turf.

After lunch, Dr Ruth Mann, of the STRI and her colleagues, John Lockyer, described some of the work at the institute that has carried out at stadia in the Ukraine, Monaco and South Africa.

The focus then switched to golf, as Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews Links, Gordon Moir, outlined his team’s preparations for last summer’s Open Championship and on the Old Course.

Completing the speaker programme was Ipswich Town’s Head Groundsman, Alan Ferguson, whose presentation described the steps he took to prepare the football club’s playing surface for the heavy plant, staging and 25,000 music fans that descended on Portman Road for Pink’s concert in June. A visit to the world’s most famous tennis venue wouldn’t be complete without a tour of the courts.

Eddie Seaward and his staff gave everyone the opportunity to see some of the construction work taking place in preparation for the Olympics.

George Hampton

Former SPCG, SIGGA and BIGGA member in Scottish golf, George, died at the end of last year at the age of 74 after a short illness.

George graduated from left was a well known face in the Scottish greenkeepers and golfing circles and you could always hear him if you were within ear shot with his distinct knock, either talking or receiving jokes.

George completed his National Diploma in Surveying in Singapore, which he was told he treated it like a holiday.

With his sound golfing ability and through getting afternoon off from his years job he had to become the Pro at Inverurie Golf Club. George then took the post of Greenkeeper at Stornoway GC on the island of Lewis before moving back to the coast and in 1993 to do the same at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC.

Not only a good teaching pro as a greenkeeper George would preach about keeping the turf lush and dry, aeration is key and to work with nature.

Sensible greenkeeping is am I happy to say George retired from greenkeeping in 1991 and took up the post as Pro at Pitlochry during which time he won the Scottish Seniors PGA in 1993. Arthritis in his hands restricted his golf these past few years before finally setting home to retire in Ireland.

We pass on our thoughts to his wife Mary and family. George Paterson

South East Region Annual Gentleman’s Day Golf and Dinner

Walton Heath Golf Club
Friday 4th March 2011

One of Greengrooping’s longest running events and is always well supported.

For more details please contact.
Clive Osgood
South East Regional Administrator
clivoosgood@yahoo.co.uk
Phone 01737 819343 mob 07841 948410

SCOTTISH REGION

On behalf of the Association I would like to express our thanks to our Patrons for their support throughout 2010. Their financial and practical support makes it possible for the Scottish Region to run another successful Conference in March at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline.

Individual sections continued to organise various seminars, talks and golf outings throughout the year. All of thisplus the Scottish National Tournament, made it a very successful year for the Association.

The Patron Award winners enjoyed a trip to Harrogate along with their book prizes presented by the Patrons. This only possible with the support of the Patrons.

We are very grateful to them all.

We look forward to continuing the relationship we have with our Patrons and look forward to 2011.

Thanks to the following firms: Richard Atken (Seadrome); Bayer: David Industrial Products; The Double “A” Trading Company; Farways Group; Hamilton Biscuits (Eng); Golf Finance; Gowanish Sportsturf; Henderson Grass Machinery; Indigrow; McNair; Meklen Drainage & Grounds; Ham Brown (Glascow); Parlaw Golf; Rigby Taylor; SIGGA Contract; LLP; ScotsBrite; Symbole The Scottish Company (UK) Shooters Sports; Sports Turf Services; Turfing Services; Thomas Sherley &; Co and Thrombless Amenity, Peter Urquhart, Scottish Region