Golf is ready to play on for you. With decades of excellence in innovation, we don’t know the meaning of subpar. The industry standard that still stands today. Now with a worldwide presence and a host of proven products, Hunter

Back in 1952 when brass was king, founder Edwin J. Hunter foresaw the durability, economy, and versatility of plastics

SOMETIMES IN GOLF HIGH NUMBERS ARE GOOD.

The new Trump International Links, currently under construction near Aberdeen, is going to be absolutely superb.

The course is cut through some of the highest and most spectacular dunes to be found anywhere, and it is a real credit to Architect, Martin Hawtree; Constructor, Sid Golf, and, John Bambury who is responsible for the grow-in.

If the preconception was that a Donald Trump golf course would be big on cart paths, ornamental fountains and burger concessions, discretely located behind every third tee, you will be pleasantly surprised. It certainly does not fit the archetypal mould of an American-style course. It has been designed to be walked – ideally with caddies – and there is not a buggy to be found anywhere, never mind a path for one.

The course is totally in keeping with the environment and, outside of the tees, greens and bunkers it would be hard to identify any man-made touches. You can read all about this much talked about new course in our exclusive profile and bunkers it would be hard to identify any man-made touches. You can read all about this much talked about new course in our exclusive profile.

The golf course is sure to establish itself very quickly in the British and international game and the arrival of top tournaments will surely follow.

North of Scotland is where it’s at

Dornoch, Nairn, and Royal Aberdeen, which received massive plaudits for its hosting of the recent Walker Cup, as well as the hidden gems including Cruden Bay, Tain and Boat of Garten.

Then there is the fantastic Castle Stuart, which caught the imagination of so many when it hosted the Barclays Scottish Open in July, despite being less than two years old.

All are classic, or guaranteed to become classic, golf courses and each is maintained to the highest possible standard by Course Managers, who all know how to cope with the slightly more extreme weather conditions that particular area of the UK throws up.

The weather may be cold but as a golfing destination the north of Scotland is definitely hot.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jason Hunt on becoming BIGGA’s Champion Golfer for 2011. The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, was a wonderful event made more so because of the wonderful welcome by West Lancs Golf Club, and two superb sponsors.

The camaraderie of the players, many of whom return year after year, is a delight to see, while the quality of golf, at the top of the field, is second to none.

The aim is to identify BIGGA’s Champion, but the competition is open to all - there are handicap prizes for example, the main one being won by Mark Blacknell – and it remains one of the highlights of the BIGGA calendar. It is the Scottish Open for golfers wishing to experience the best the UK and Ireland has to offer.

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The course is totally in keeping with the environment and, outside of the tees, greens and bunkers it would be hard to identify any man-made touches. You can read all about this much talked about new course in our exclusive profile elsewhere in this issue. It includes interviews with both John Bambury and Martin Hawtree.

It will open in July of next year which ties in beautifully with the 100th anniversary of Martin's family golf architecture firm. The golf course is sure to establish itself very quickly as THE course to visit destination for golfers wishing to experience the best the UK and Ireland has to offer.

There are established clubs like Royal Dornoch, Nairn, and Royal Aberdeen, which received massive plaudits for its hosting of the recent Walker Cup, as well as the hidden gems including Cruden Bay, Tain and Boat of Garten.

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The aim is to identify BIGGA’s Champion, but the competition is open to all - there are handicap prizes for example, the main one being won by Mark Blackcross – and it remains one of the highlights of the BIGGA calendar.

Irvine Bogside, another wonderful golf course, is due next year, so why not make a point of playing?
STRI Golf Environment Awards: 2011 Winners

The winners of the BIGGA supported event are announced. Richard Stuttard, Chairman, reminisces about Harrogate Week

Avoid the Yarrow March
Dr Terry Mabbutt looks at Yarrow, the turf weed with it all

Down down, deeper and down
Scott MacCallum goes down a potash mine

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BIGGA’s 2011 Champion Golfer revealed

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Billy McMillan, Past Chairman, reminisces about Harrogate Week

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.
Walter Woods BEM is the most recognised greenkeeper in the world and his memoir is an opportunity to recount his reminiscences and thoughts to the profession both young and old.

Starting his working life down a coal mine Walter then worked at his home-town, Tillicoultry’s, golf club in the late 1950s where his hard work and ability as a county standard player brought him to wider attention. He moved to Braehead Golf Club in 1965 where he and wife, Caroline, worked on the course and in the clubhouse.

The family moved south to Stantons-on-the-Wolds GC in Nottinghamshire in 1968 before, a short time later, he was appointed Head Greenkeeper at Notts (Holme waldring GC), a job he had coveted since he had arrived in England.

The chance spotting of an advert for Walter Woods BEM – ‘more sand, Honeyman… more sand’

Memos of a greenkeeper!

In his own words

the following morning but was greeted by abuse when he made his request in person. In response Walter asked Daly and his entourage to move as far away from the area as possible. He never did get his flag signed.

When he finally retired after 21 years as Links Superintendent he was bestowed the Freedom of the Links, allowing him to play golf at St Andrews for the rest of his days. A must read for anyone with an association with the great profession of greenkeeping, those who have had the privilege of knowing Walter can hear his voice as you read and there is much to learn, and much to raise a chuckle.

The production of the book owes much to the hard work of Walter himself, but also to Barry Beckett, of Toro, without whom the project would not have reached the successful conclusion that it has.

The book will be included in the New BIGGA Members’ Welcome Pack for the next two years; it will be available on the BIGGA stand at HTME 2012 for anyone wishing a copy while Walter will also be available during the Show to sign copies.

We have enjoyed tremendously getting involved with BIGGA and the Golf Management Trophy,” said Tim Webb, Managing Director, at Tacit.

“This is a fantastic vehicle to promote the relationship between Greenkeepers and their Club Management. Relationships often forged on the golf course can then be more easily transferred to the boardroom or committee room making communications between Clubhouse and Course smoother and more beneficial in both directions,” he said.

“I know all of the clubs have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the regional events and then getting to the final.”

“We are really excited about venues which we have been promised for next year and we will try and get a complete list out by January, so clubs can see which venue would be ideal for them.” Tacit is also trying to increase the coverage to give all clubs in Great Britain a chance to play. However, the entry will be limited to the venue capacity, so please get your entries in early if you wish to partake.

“I look forward to making new friends and meeting up with old ones over the forthcoming events. See you there,” added Tim.

Results: 1. The Players’ Club (British); 11 131; Andy Graham (Deputy Head Greenkeeper), Paul Heyburn (Hon Secretary), Terry Parsons (Captain), Peter Atkin (Vice Chairman), 2. Liphook (9) 123 cpo; 3. Rothley Park (9) 133 cpo; 4. Test Valley (9) 133

The photo is of (left to right): Walter Woods BEM, Jane Jones, Paul Heyburn, Terry Parsons, Peter Atkin (Vice Chairman), Peter Aitken (Vice Chairman), Scott MacCallum

Walter Woods BEM – ‘more sand, Honeyman... more sand’

Golf Management Trophy 2011

The final of the Tacit Golf Management Trophy at The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, last month saw victory for The Players’ Club, in Bristol. It was the culmination of a series of regional events held up and down the country which produced a final.

“Teams from all over the country qualified for the inaugural Tacit sponsored Golf Management Trophy; these included: Uppington; Blagney St Ives; Romford; Rothley Park; Gay Hill; The Players Club; Verulam; Brickendon; Morriston; Newport; Test Valley and Liphook.

The format of the competition was a team comprising of greenkeeper, Club Captain, Secretary and Green Committee Member – fourball better ball with two best scores counting.

The idea of the competition was to pay for prizes for the club rather than individual gain, with prizes as a momento of the day.

Regional rounds saw the winners going away with sets of embroidered flags for their course, while the final winners also took home an additional full set of pros and cups - a prize worth in excess of £2,000, as well as individual black/white waterproof jackets and fleeces.

“We have enjoyed tremendously getting involved with BIGGA and the Golf Management Trophy,” said Tim Webb, Managing Director, at Tacit.

“One of the Swindon-based clubs, The Players Club (British) is due to host the next competition.”

The photo is of (left to right): Jim Croxton, Andy Graham, Paul Heyburn, Terry Parsons, Peter Atkin, Tim Webb (MD Tacit), Jane Jones.

McMillan Tankard

The annual McMillan Tankard over Sunningdale was won by one of the house team greenkeepers, Tom Brayley. Played recently over the New Course at Sunningdale, Surrey Section members had the pleasure of playing the course – as always in fantastic condition thanks to Murray Long and his team, all with the added pleasure of the weather looking magnificent in full bloom.

Tom won on the day with a score of 37 points, Tony Bremer finished runner up with 35 points. He was presented with his Tankard by Jack and Rita McMillan, an has been tradition for over 30 years.
Walter Woods – ‘more sand, Honeyman… more sand’

In his own words

Walter Woods BEM is the most recognised greenkeeper in the world and his memoir is an opportunity to recount his reminiscences and thoughts to the profession both young and old.

Starting his working life down a coal mine Walter then worked at his home-town, Tillsinloury’s, golf club in the late 1950s where his hard work and ability as a county standard player brought him to wider attention. He moved to Bearehead Golf Club in 1965 where he and wife, Caroline, worked on the course and in the clubhouse.

The family moved south to Stanton-on-the-Wolds GC in Nottinghamshire in 1968 before, a short time later, he was appointed Head Greenkeeper at Notts (Holmfirth) GC, a job he had coveted since he had arrived in England.

The chance spotting of an advert for the job of Links Superintendent at St Andrews created a dilemma for Walter but the lure of managing the best known course in the world was too much and in 1974 he was appointed.

Almost immediately he set about improving the education and motivation of the Links Trust staff, as well as his own communication skills, in a job which was more administrative than hands-on greenkeeping. The scale of managing four links courses, heavily played on a huge stretch of land also had to be developed to ensure the most effective approaches were adopted.

Walter prepared The Old Course for four Opens – 1978, 1984, 1990 and 1995—and the book gives an insight into the behind the scenes activity at each of these. As one of the prime movers behind the formation of BIGGA, Walter describes the background to this including the proposal and ultimate rejection of a move to join with the PGA.

Following discussions between Walter and Sir Michael Donnallack, the Secretary of the R&A, (now BIGGA President), the groundwork towards forming a new Association, covering all of the UK and beyond was funded by the R&A and BIGGA was formed in 1987 with Walter as the first Chairman.

In addition to Walter’s experiences of four Opens, and the myriad of other tournaments that he prepared the course for, he also includes much of his own greenkeeping philosophy and many of his own anecdotes covering the period.

His last Open was in 1995, won by that golfing maverick, John Daly. Walter had asked to have a flag signed by the new champion when he was taking part in a photo session by the Road Hole Bunker the following morning but was greeted with abuse when he made his request in person. In response Walter asked Daly and his entourage to move as far away from the area as possible. He never did get his flag signed.

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The production of the book owes much to the hard work of Walter himself, but also to Barry Beckett, of Torro, without whom the project would not have reached the successful conclusion that it has.

The book will be included in the New BIGGA Members’ Welcome Pack for the next two years; it will be available on the BIGGA stand at BTME 2012 for anyone wishing a copy while Walter will also be available during the Show to sign copies. The book will also be available on line to members for the cost of postage and packing.

Scott MacCallum
November is a bumper month for learning and development within BIGGA with four Regional Conferences taking place around the country.

On November 16 the South East Conference takes place at Stockbrook Manor Golf Club, in Essex, with an exciting range of speakers covering a range of sports surfaces. Included in the programme are Darren Baldwin, from Totternhoe Hotspur PC; Peter Craig, from the Huntingdon Club, and Stuart Kerrison, from Essex County Cricket Club, while golf is the Hurlingham Club, and Stuart Kerrison, Tottenham Hotspur FC; Peter Craig, from the Hurlingham Club, and Stuart Kerrison, Tottenham Hotspur FC; Peter Craig, from the Hurlingham Club, and Stuart Kerrison.

On November 17 the South West Conference is held at the Oaktree Arena in Somerset, where Cale Bigelow, Associate Manager of Ealing GC, and Berrow GC Course Manager, and BIGGA representatives by Richard Whyman, Burnham and Berrow GC Course Manager, and BIGGA Past Chairman and Greg Evans, Course Manager of Ealing GC, take part.

On November 18 the South Wales Conference will be held at South Wales Conference, in Llanelli, where Cale Bigelow, Associate Manager of Ealing GC, and Berrow GC Course Manager, and BIGGA Past Chairman and Greg Evans, Course Manager of Ealing GC, take part.

On November 19 the Northern Conference will be held at the Hurlingham Club, with Mark Hunt, Technical Director, Headland Amenity Ltd; Keith Duff, Golf Environment Consultant, and Bernhard & Co, GreenTech Sportsurf Ltd; Fairways GM, Andersons fertilisers, Floreat turf products and Don Valley turf and seeds. Thank you to you all for your help and support.

As a special landmark in 1977, Lloyds produced a totally silver Palafox in celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee year. Manufactured from aluminium, the components were highly polished and all other steel parts were chrominised. It was presented to Her Majesty and was used at Balmoral Castle.

For more information on the events please visit the Events Section of the BIGGA Club.

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50 years Celebrations

Lloyds’ Palafox Mower, which holds a place of affection with many around the world, is celebrating 50 years in production.

The current range of Palafox, although very different to the original model, has kept loyal to the concept of simplicity and efficiency of operation and maintenance. Clive Nottingham, Managing Director of Lloyds and Co Letchworth Ltd is delighted with the performance of the Palafox over the last 50 years.

“This is a machine which has always been highly rated by the end user. It invariably gives unprecedented performance for the professional looking for the perfect finish. Even in today’s demanding sporting world where the expectations are extremely high, the Palafox always delivers on its promise.”

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Thank you

Now that the dust has settled on the Walker Cup I am now getting time to thank everybody who helped make the event a great success.

I had many volunteers from as far away as Tennessee in the USA, to Golspie in the north and from all corners of the UK. I would like to officially thank all the volunteers who gave up their time to help out at the event. It was very much appreciated by myself and the Walker Cup committee. The weather was reasonably kind to us with some heavy rain showers on the Saturday giving some slight concern but overall we were lucky with the weather we had.

I also had tremendous trade support from John Deere, Berthoud & Co, GreenTech Sportsurf Ltd, Fairways GM, Andersons fertilisers, Floreat turf products and Don Valley turf and seeds. Thank you to you all for your help and support.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I have to thank my own staff on a tremendous achievement over the past few years and latterly the past 6 months. Their commitment to ensuring that the course looked and played its best was fantastic and I thank them all very much, well done boys a great achievement.

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To alleviate any travel issues the Northern Region is holding two Conferences on consecutive days in two venues on either side of the Pennines.

The first will be held at Cookridge Hall GC, Leeds on November 29, with the second the following day at Brockwood GC, Manchester. Speakers for both include: Mark Hunt, Technical Director, Headland Amenity; Dr Keith Duff, Golf Environment Consultant, and Bob Hardy, Secretary, of Vale of Llangollen Golf Club.

Full details for all of the Conferences can be found on the Events Section of the BIGGA Website.

Be sure to take advantage!

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Rolawn Restores Stonehenge

Rolawn’s Medallion® turf has recently been laid around the ancient stone circle at Stonehenge, as part of its annual restoration programme. The installation was carried out by specialist contractor Parsons Landscapes Ltd.
The annual competition for the Norrie Whytock Trophy took place at the usual venue, Auchtread Golf Club recently. With a full complement of five teams taking part, the weather at the beginning of play was quite favourable and some excellent scoring was recorded. Although the weather deteriorated near the end of play, this did not hinder the field and the good scoring continued till all the players were finished. Archie Dunn and his staff were to be congratulated on producing a first-class golf course.

The scoring was its usual high standard. In third place with 88 points was the West Section team comprised S. Taylor, Glasgow GC, D. Red, Lenz GC, S. Diamond, Loch Lomond, and C. George, Retired Member. Second with a total of 103 pts was the S.Diamond, Loch Lomond, and C. Archie Dunn and his staff are to be till all the players were finished. Archie Dunn and his staff were to be congratulated on producing a first-class golf course.

The Association wish to place on record thanks to the Captain and Committee for the courtesy and facilities and to David Smith, Managing Secretary for his assistance.

Next year’s tournament will take place on 16 August, 2012. Peter J. Boyd Regional Administrator

Photo shows R Liddell, D Middleton, S Taylor, R Pirie, R Macrae and J McCormick

GTC ANNOUNCES NEW DATES

The GTC, in association with the EGU is hosting three further workshops as part of a pilot programme to introduce Quality Assured short courses and workshops for golf club officials and managers.

The workshops are:
November 9, Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Hertfordshire; November 17, Rotherham Golf Club, South Yorkshire;
November 25, Buxton Park Golf Club, Kent; January 26, Oakdale Golf Club, North Yorkshire; February 22 Cold Ashby Golf Club, Northamptonshire. Further dates still to be announced.

The GTC has engaged the services of Laurence Philbe, MG, and one of its Quality Assured Training Providers, to present these workshops. Comprehensive course notes will be given to all delegates attending the workshop.

To view the programme visit www.gtc.co.uk on 01347 838640 or email info@the-gtc.co.uk

Paul Carella, an Assistant at The Richmond Club, was the year’s tournament. The Association wish to place on record thanks to the Captain and Committee for the courtesy and facilities and to David Smith, Managing Secretary for his assistance.

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Singing the Greens

Paul Carella, an Assistant at The Richmond Club, in London, is making quite a splash as a singer and recently competed in a National Open Mic contest.

“I sung Ring of Fire by Johnny Cash and one of my original songs called Red Sole Woman,” explained Paul.

“I didn’t get through this time, but my performance has generated interest from a couple of record labels.”

Paul has been singing seriously for two years playing walks around London and has had two of his own songs from his first album, Outlaw, on an American radio show, HostessBlog, based in Texas.

I had two top 20 finishes out of the best 350 songs of each year: 2009 and 2010. The songs were called, A Letter For My Brother and Driller. I also did a guest dj appearance on the show and I’ll be back on again next year,” said Paul, who also played at Guilfest this year. Where Raincloud, Roger Daltrey and James Blunt were among the acts.

You can check out some of Paul’s original songs at www.myspace.com/paulcarella and keep up to date with his music at paulcarella’s music on facebook.

GI NEWSDESK

Norrie Whytock Trophy

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The team prize was accepted by Jim McCormack on behalf of the North Section from Kenny Liddell, Bayer’s representative in Scotland.

Scottish Chairman Stuart Taylor thanked Kenny Liddell and Bayer for once again sponsoring this year’s tournament.

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Next year’s tournament will take place on 16 August, 2012.

Peter J. Boyd Regional Administrator

Photo shows R Liddell, D Middleton, S Taylor, R Pirie, R Macrae and J McCormick