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Welcome from the editor

It’s never time wasted

Making the most of resources is something we’ve all had to become more proficient at in recent times. That’s not to say that we were overly cavalier with our, or our employers’, money, prior to that.

It is just that whatever slack may or may not have been there, in the halcyon years of the 80s, 90s and early noughties, has well and truly been tightened up.

Wouldn’t life have been so much more pleasant during those times if we had known how well off we actually were?

But with the recession biting and not looking like coming to an end any time soon, golf has had to become used to operating under reduced circumstances. However, one thing that can’t be allowed to happen is for course presentation standards to drop.

Hence the need to become better at the practices.

As you would expect from someone of Kerran’s experience, the article is packed full of useful information some of which you may already know and be putting to good use, but there will undoubtedly be something new that you might be able to incorporate into your own practices.

Taking time to assess how you do things is never time wasted.

One way in which any money worries would be banished for good would have been to have had an accumulator on the winners of this year’s four Majors. Whereas a couple of years ago no-one would have been overly impressed if you’d predicted two or even three of the year’s Champions, this year, if you get just one of them, people would have expected Nostradamus to pop up somewhere on your family tree, if you were ever to appear on, “Who Do You Think You Are?”

True Charl Schwartzel and Rory McIlroy were regarded as fine up and coming players, but Masters and US Open Champion? Perhaps not quite yet. Darren Clarke and Keegan Bradley would certainly have been extra long shots for their respective Open and US PGA titles. Darren was widely regarded to have peaked a few years ago, while Keegan was playing in his first ever Major.

That is the beauty of golf. Anyone can win over 72 holes strokeplay and whereas the number of potential winners of major sporting events in other sports can be counted on the fingers of one hand golf is now far more unpredictable.

Even more reason then, to get your application in for the BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Chartershouse and Kubota. You still have a little time to do so. It is always a fabulous event and open to all standards of player. This year it is to be hosted by West Lancs GC, one of the finest courses in the North West, and one with a reputation of being particularly challenging.

So get yourself entered. You won’t regret it.

Scott MacCallum
Editor
One man bands

Finding a lone greenkeeper covers up a wealth of knowledge and valuable hands-on experience. Here’s how you can keep a well trained, knowledgeable and sagacious colleague to help deliver quality throughout the year.

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John Deere are the Gold Key Profile

38 Smart management
Kerran Daly MG looks at how you can keep a well maintained golf course in times of austerity measures

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Rob Clare tells us about his trip to North Carolina

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Graham Paul offers another opportunity to earn valuable BASIS points

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Dr Terry Mahlrett with his in-depth look at how to look after your trees

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Trade Show Resolution

Many people will be aware of the formal discussions that have been taking place between representatives of BIGGA, The Institute of Groundsmanship and The Agricultural Engineers Association over the last couple of years with reference to the future of trade shows in the grounds and turf care sector. Below is a statement from the group on the outcome of those discussions.

Statement From The Grounds And Turf Care Industry Forum (GT CIF)

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), and the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) under the independent Chairmanship of David Gwyther of the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) has conducted an extensive review of trade events for the sector. We have considered carefully the location, frequency and composition of the trade events available to manufacturers and retailers of grounds and turf care products.

The HTA has independently analysed the details of both SALTEX and BTME and the demographics of both exhibitors and visitors who have attended these events in the past five years. This has identified that there are significant differences between the events, that they are not directly comparable. Clearly there exists a overlap in both exhibitors and visitors but in all cases this is a small minority. They also concluded that market forces will continue to dictate the demand and make up of these types of events.

The opportunity for the aforementioned stakeholders in the grounds and turf care industry to review their activity and discuss wider issues has been extremely positive and productive. The talks have highlighted a number of areas of mutual concern outside the trade event discussions and it has been heartening to find that in many areas there are potential opportunities to collaborate, share resources and expertise and to generally have a positive impact on the industry.

Consequently, the IOG, BIGGA, HTA and the AEA have agreed that:

1. They will continue to keep the future of Grounds and Turf Care Events under active review.
2. They will work in collaboration through a new Grounds and Turf Care Industry Forum
3. This Forum will provide a platform for these Trade Associations to work together to pursue areas of interest where a common voice will have a better opportunity to be heard.
4. They will actively look to engage with some other Associations in the Grounds and Turf Care Industry.
5. The Agenda will encompass areas such as:
   - Careers and personal development
   - Communication, Events, Health & Safety
   - Market research, Recruitment and Training
   - Better Regulation, Relationships with the companies in the industry sector
   - Providing a common voice to government in both the EU and UK.

The independent Chairman, David Gwyther of the HTA said:

“HTA’s independent and objective analysis of the industry’s two main shows has made it clear that there is, in fact, little real overlap in target markets and each has a distinct sectoral focus. Merging these positive outcomes from our joint meetings this year, which demonstrate that this industry can and does work sensibly together.”

The Grounds and Turf Care Industry Forum will draft Terms of Reference in the next few months and issue general information about the Forum’s work.

The Chairman of BIGGA, Andrew McKenzie, who attended the discussions said:

“It is very important that all businesses take an objective look at their activities on an ongoing basis, the informal discussions presented an excellent opportunity for BIGGA to assess all aspects of BTME. Careful study showed that the Exhibition is an important showcase for the sports turf industry and particularly for the golf course maintenance sector as well as providing a valuable platform for BIGGA’s Continue to Learn programme and a hugely important networking opportunity for all those involved in the maintenance and management of golf courses.

“We are delighted that this process has validated the relevance of BTME in today’s market however we are mindful that we need to continually strive to ensure that visitors and exhibitors achieve maximum value from the event. We will continue to listen to all the key stakeholders to ensure the event evolves to meet the needs of all.”

Harry Diamond Quaich

The Quaich is held every year at Bellevue GC to preserve the memory of Harry Diamond, former Course Manager at Auchenheath Course, and who was instrumental in promoting education in Scotland.

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In July, the course was in excellent condition and the presentation to the highest standard.

As is the usual custom, players were waiting to their respective targets on the 8th to await the Quaich for the start of the Stableford competition. As the weather of the previous year, everyone enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning and the pleasure of playing in a competition for all ages.

Harry's family were all in attendance to take on the adopted tasks that made it such a well run event.

Harry's brother, Hugh, presented the prizes to the players with come accompanied with Harry's music. 

Jessie, presented the Harry Diamond Quaich to the winners – Patricia Lambie, Steve Arrandale, Murray Cowie and Stephen Kreswain, who come in with an excellent 97 points.

It was announced that Harry's family had donated £500 to local hospitals and, at a time when everyone is tightening their belts because of the credit crunch, it is good to see that the Harry Diamond Memorial Fund can still afford to give donations to worthy causes.

George Carpenter, won the event on a Stableford competition on the second day for those who perhaps didn't do themselves justice on the first day.

The competition is based on four individual prizes over 18 and 36 holes. There is also a team prize for two team members who are progressing to the final; with Trevor Booth and Chris Carpenter, 2nd and 3rd, from the right respectively.

The South West and South Wales Region’s final Section Golf Management Trophy event was held in the South West Section at the Players Club.

Twenty-two teams took part which was a record number for this Section. Despite a deluge of rain towards the end of play, the day was enjoyed by everyone.

Ogbourne Downs Golf Club was the winning team securing a place in the final together with runners up the Players Golf Club both teams on 86 points. In third place with 84pts was Long Ashton Golf Club.

The top three won equipment for their clubs.

The photographs show some of the two team members who are progressing to the final with Trevor Booth and Chris Carpenter.

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The latest news from around the globe

TACIT GOLF TROPHY

A Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day, sponsored by Tacit, was held at Biirhendson, Grange Golf Club last month.

Teams from 11 golf clubs enjoyed a great day on a superbly presented course prepared by Course Manager, Trevor Booth and his staff.

Thanks are extended to all at the Club for making the day enjoyable and successful.

Highlight of the day was a 2 in the 337 yards par 4 3rd hole by Dave Thompson, from Buckingham Golf Club, who drove the green and sank the putt!

The competition is based on four main teams, comprising a BIGGA member, Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green, playing Stableford. Verulium Golf Club, led by Course Manager, Chris Carpenter, won the event on a countback from the host club with a score of 85 points.

Both golf clubs progress to the National Final to be held at Mere Golf Resort & Spa later this month. The top three was equipment for their clubs.

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The latest news from around the globe

Retirement

Brian Willmott, Area Manager for Tacit in the South East of England, is set to retire in a few years after 30 years working for the company and 25 years within the Greenkeeping Industry.

As well as the main prizes, players can compete for the Best Stableford prize over the 36 holes plus a team and individual prizes over 18 and 36 holes. There is also a Stableford competition on the second day for those who perhaps didn’t do themselves justice on the first day.

To enter, or for further information, please contact Pauline Thomson, at BIGGA HQ. Tel: 01347 833800 email: pauline@bigga.co.uk

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The independent Chairman, David Gwyther of the HTA said:

“HTA’s independent and objective analysis of the industry’s two main shows has made it clear that there is, in fact, little real overlap in target markets and each has a distinct sectoral focus. Merging them in somewhere like central England would only increase the costs. There is no market appetite for further, new shows. Working together on this issue has led to the recognition that all parties have much to gain from developing such collaboration into other areas. I am very pleased with these positive outcomes from our joint meetings this year, which demonstrate that this industry can and does work sensibly together.”

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The latest news from around the globe
Turf science brought to life at The Belfry

The Belfry played host to the second Turf Science Live in July - an interactive event that showcases the latest research, development and technological innovations in turf agronomy.

Organised and run by Everris (formerly named Scotts and Syngenta), the educational day of presentations and practical demonstrations was attended by 96 golf course managers, head greenkeepers, turfgrass consultants and contractors.

Small groups of delegates spent half an hour at each one of seven learning stations discovering more about turfgrass seed development, the art of application, irrigation, the science of stress, optimising management systems, the technology and converting annual meadowgrass greens to bentgrass greens using the latest electric greens mower and informative day. I found the station about turf stress, presented by Dr John Reade and Hanif Shah, particularly interesting. I work at a course with red clay greens, so springs for me are very difficult, but this year we’ve gone from dry and cold, to dry and hot with little rainfall, so the turf has stayed stressed and I’ve hit a time of the year when I want it to be actively growing. They explained about stress, its impact on turf and how to alleviate it, as well as showing us about some practical solutions to help manage performance under difficult environmental conditions.”

Neil Ballingall, Superintendent at Fairmont St Andrews, made the journey south to the West Midlands to attend his first Turf Science Live. “Everything I’ve learnt today will help me when I return to my golf course,” he confirmed. “I much prefer this interactive format to sitting in a seminar, it was great to get out on to the superb course here at The Belfry.”

IGCEMA Support

BIGGA has signed on in full support of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers’ Association Certificate Programme.

The programme is part of the IGCEMA’s commitment to educating its members around the world. The Certificate Programme consists of six core competencies including: hydraulic troubleshooting, electrical troubleshooting, internal combustion engines, drivelines, soon to be released are sprayer troubleshooting and cutting unit technology and set up.

IGCEMA’s CEO, Stephen Tucker, stated: “It gives us great pride to know that golf greenkeepers around the world are signing on in support of our programme. A lot of effort went into making this available to everyone. Having the support of BIGGA shows that greenkeepers are behind what we are doing. The support of BIGGA in this way will give the programme much credibility.”

BIGGA’s CEO, Jim Croxton, said: “BIGGA is committed to recognising excellence and giving recognition to those that strive for it so we are delighted to support the IGCEMA Certification Programme and appreciate the benefits that come from a close working relationship between our two bodies.

“Top quality greenkeeping is only possible if the machines used to do the job are maintained and repaired to the highest possible standard and the work that the IGCEMA does to raise the bar in this regard is to be applauded.”

BIGGA has not only signed on in support of the IGCEMA programme but has pledged to become an invigilator and set-up the programme in the UK and the work that the IGCEMA’s President, Patrick Callaby, Workshop Manager of the Celtic Manor Resort, said: “I am so pleased that BIGGA, under the leadership of their newly appointed CEO, Jim Croxton, has come out in support of the certificate programme.”

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Luck of the Draw

The Open at Royal St. George's was the venue for a draw to find out who had won the Rigby Taylor/ Pinseeker competition. Forty-five clubs throughout the UK who purchased a specific range of Pinseeker equipment qualified to be entered into the draw and Jim Croxton, CEO of BIGGA, drew out Corhampton Golf Club, near Southampton, as the lucky winners.

The prize for the club is a round of golf for two and lunch at any course within a 50 mile radius of its location, or an alternative cash prize. Included in the competition was an award for the most successful Rigby Taylor sales representative, and it was Derek Cunliffe who won a similar prize.

Photograph shows Richard Fry, Marketing Director of Rigby Taylor, left, with Jim Croxton, right.

Leatherjackets Addressed

The problem of leatherjackets and chafer grubs on turf was highlighted in a group of symmetry sector professionals at a recent insecticide training presentation for Amenity landfill operators in Telford.

Hosted by Bayer National Account Manager, Dave Orchard, the training provided the area sales managers with an understanding of the common pest control problems.

Dave explained, “Populations of chafer grubs have increased dramatically over the last 10 years and they are now a major problem in the UK. Left untreated, they can cause severe destruction of turf, and often secondary damage is caused as birds and other animals search out the grubs to feed on.”

The training stressed the importance of using a programmed approach in order to fully gain control of these insects and maximise control.

THE FUTURE OF SPORTSTURF MANAGEMENT

STRI Research 2011 is a new event being launched this year by STRI. The event is free, will be held annually, and has been designed to give sports turf managers an opportunity to see, first hand, the innovative products, machinery and techniques that are being developed that will directly influence the world of sports turf management over the coming years.

The one day event is being held on Wednesday, September 21 in Bingley and will follow the successful format used at research events worldwide, which splits the research focus into separate demo areas, referred to as ‘stations’. The event for 2011 is focusing on turf management for golf courses, with seven separate stations, giving an insight into new products, research and methodologies for disease and nutritional management, new grass varieties, aeration, overseeding and amendments, and methodologies for disease and nutritional management.

STRI is currently working with a number of companies on R&D sportsturf projects and has invited a selection of these companies to support the event, based on their focus on current research, and their investment to help improve the future quality and management of sportsturf. The companies attending this year’s event are Bayer, Evonik (formerly Scotts), R&B Kessett, Ramooses Jacobsen, Byngenta, Becker Underwood and Sherff Amenity.

The deadline for booking for the STRI Research 2011 event is 31 August 2011 and STRI is expecting more than 120 attendees for the day. Invitations have been sent out to all golf clubs across the UK and Ireland.