In 2005 we made history introducing ‘it’.
In 2010 we made history again introducing ‘them’.

John Deere Exclusive E-Cut Hybrid Fairway & Greens Mowers.
It’s the fifth anniversary of E-Cut Hybrid technology and the honeymoon’s not over. These ahead-of-their-time mowers offer the consistent cut only electricity can deliver. Save up to 30% on fuel and end hydraulic-leak anxiety forever. And only John Deere offers this award-winning* option for both greens and fairways. All John Deere E-Cut Hybrid mowers are equipped with revolutionary Quick Adjust cutting units.

Consider us part of your team.

It’s the John Deere Exclusive E-Cut Hybrid Fairway & Greens Mowers.

Here comes the sun

With Summer Time now officially upon us we can look forward to longer days and lighter evenings, but if you are in large portions of this country you may well be enduring the headache of water restrictions.

I can only imagine the sleepless nights induced by the helplessness you must feel from not being able to bring some relief to stressed out greens.

While we are supposed to live in a country of moderate climate the occasions when weather seems to be playing a part are increasing, although the anti Climate Change lobby will say that a few years of hotter temperatures and higher or lower rainfall is nowhere near enough to indicate a true change.

I must say it has been strange, living in an area where we have had a decent amount of rain, listening to the weather men and women beginning their forecasts by saying: “Those of you looking for rain are going to be disappointed.”

The last major drought caused havoc within the industry with many courses suffering as a result and supplies of water being sought from some quarters.

In effect it is no different from a householder using water he has gathered from his own water butt, but it is all about perceptions isn’t it?

I would like to add to the many tributes that have already been paid to Scottish Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, who retires at the end of this month.

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IT IS CLEAR THAT WATER IS GOING TO BECOME AN issue. As we are supposed to live in a country of moderate climate the occasions when weather seems to be playing a part are increasing, although the anti Climate Change lobby will say that a few years of hotter temperatures and higher or lower rainfall is nowhere near enough to indicate a true change.

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The last major drought caused havoc within the industry with many courses suffering as a result and supplies of water being sought from any available source.

Where we are, the days are long and the nights are light. There are enough diseases around already to keep you on your toes.

In effect it is no different from a householder using water he has gathered from his own water butt, but it is all about perceptions isn’t it?

Whether that be with the adoption of more drought resistant cultivars or more sophisticated and accurate ways in which to administer irrigation no stone can afford to be left unturned.

Here comes the sun
FEATURES

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Scott MacCallum speaks to Joe Hughes about his 25 years at Llangollen Golf Club, and how he’ll differentiate between his roles by the shoes that he is wearing.

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Creatures Great and Small
Part of a series of articles aimed at a varying readership. If you’re new to greenkeeping, read this month’s Entry Level piece... Dr Terry Nabitt discusses how the food chain can cause bigger problems to your turf, and gives examples of the chemicals that can help you nip this in the bud.

30 Course Disease Alert
Dr Kate Enwistle offers details of two newly emerging turf diseases: Rapid Blight – a non-fungal disease and Brown Ring Patch – a non-fairy ring disease.

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What happens in Vegas doesn’t stay in Vegas, as George Pitts allows us to take a sneak peak inside his diary and tells us what the B&GA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard and Co, got up to at The Golf Industry Show.

41 Managing with Loss
Less is more as Malcolm Peake found out after attending the “Managing with Loss” workshop, which was held at Temple Golf Club.

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It always amazes me how many golf course and when asked usually than five cubic metres of timber in a tree in the eyes of the law is determined by its diameter at 1.3 metres from the base. The other advantage of professional advice is that you will have a plan to work to enabling the club to cost the work and apply to all parties involved; on impact on the environment and landscape may be imposed and generally a restocking council. TPO's prevent the felling, authority. There is a huge reluctance to issue a licence without some advice before applying for a licence as perhaps more importantly what will make a help in convincing the membership that a vocal minority who want to preserve woodlands will look after themselves naturally if left unmanaged. Therefore requires intervention in order for instance requires light to the woodland; an under-storey of bluebells required if the ecosystem is to be managed both the woodland and heath if the status quo is to be maintained. A living entity which will evolve and change in form over time, often encroaching into the line of play. Trees are a dynamic entity, increasing in size over time, often encroaching into the line of play. All clubs which have trees and woodland on the course. They form a strong three dimensional frame and apply to all parties involved; on impact on the environment and landscape may be imposed and generally a restocking council. TPO's prevent the felling, authority. There is a huge reluctance to issue a licence without some advice before applying for a licence as perhaps more importantly what will make a help in convincing the membership that a vocal minority who want to preserve woodlands will look after themselves naturally if left unmanaged. Therefore requires intervention in order for instance requires light to the woodland; an under-storey of bluebells required if the ecosystem is to be managed both the woodland and heath if the status quo is to be maintained. A living entity which will evolve and change in form over time, often encroaching into the line of play. Trees are a dynamic entity, increasing in size over time, often encroaching into the line of play. All clubs which have trees and woodland on the course. They form a strong three dimensional frame.
BIGGA and the GCSAA have forged an alliance, which will benefit golf course managers on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond.

The formal agreement sees the two largest Associations in the industry working in collaboration to continue to raise standards in course management, demonstrate a global commitment to sustainability and to enhance the professional image and status of Golf Course Managers and Superintendents.

Signed in Las Vegas during The Golf Industry Show, the agreement will see the two bodies promoting and supporting each other’s services and programmes; sharing information and knowledge and providing opportunities for both Associations to learn from each other.

The collaboration will cover education conferences and trade shows; support from industry sponsors and partners; professional development and education and membership products, services and information. All will be carried out with a genuine commitment to sustainability in all areas.

“BIGGA is delighted to have formalised its already excellent relationship with the GCSAA. We firmly believe that Course Managers around the world face similar challenges so sharing good practice, recognising each others skills and working together jointly to promote sustainability and the fine work done by all of our members will undoubtedly lead to better playing conditions on golf courses around the world. We are grateful to the Board of Directors of the GCSAA for their progressive approach to this collaboration and I personally look forward to working closely with them in the years to come,” said BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Melton.

John Farrell of Bailey’s

Bailey’s of Norfolk Technical Director, John Farrell, has died following a long battle with illness.

John had been with Bailey’s for 15 years during which time he had taken a great deal of interest and worked tirelessly to help and impart sound advice to his friends and customers within the turf care industry.

“His input into the success of our business and the friendship he bestowed on us is so special. We will never forget our John Farrell,” said Alan Bailey.

GREEN GOLF IN THE KINGDOM OF FIFE AND TAYSIDE

Special one-day seminar at The Scores Hotel, St Andrews
April 26, 2012 9.30am-2.45pm

A special one-day seminar, looking at how golf clubs can achieve success in sustainably managing their courses and facilities, is to be held in St Andrews later this month.

The free seminar will feature presentations about the sustainability strategies at world famous golf venues, St Andrews Links, and Loch Lomond Golf Club.

There will be presentations about Waste Management from Zero Waste Scotland, energy usage from the Scottish Energy Efficiency Office, and an introduction to the Golf Environment Organisation On Course programme and its ecocertification.

Fife Council will also outline the support available for clubs and courses implementing sustainability measures.

The seminar will conclude with a discussion session where a panel of experts in the field will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice.

It will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about this increasingly important aspect of golf club management.

The event is being organised by St Andrews Links Trust and is supported by the Scottish Golf Union, the R&A, the Golf Environment Organisation and Fife Council.

To book a free place at the seminar please visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sustainable_fife

LACEBY MANOR MOVES FORWARD WITH DEERE

Lincolnshire businessman and former champion motorcycle racer Roger Burnett has a long-term development plan in place to make Laceby Manor Resort & Golf Club near Grimsby the premier golfing venue in the region.

Having taken ownership of the club last May, Roger has invested in improvements to the clubhouse, course and greenskeeping facilities, with the recent purchase of a new John Deere course maintenance fleet from local dealer P G Adams and Son of Swarb Musk, North Ferriby.

“We now have the opportunity to provide the right golfing experience, with our new machinery fleet, and with a new head greenkeeper in Rob Bradley,” said Roger.

New Consultant

The European Institute of Golf Course Consultants (EIGCA) has appointed Eric Tortelier as their latest EIGCA Consultant Partner.

Eric, who has worked in the irrigation industry for the last 25 years, is an agricultural engineer and MBA. He spent 17 years with Rain Bird Europe and a further eight years with Toro, working in Europe, Africa and the Middle East on many prestigious projects.

For the last four years Eric has been Managing Director at AREO. Julia Green, EIGCA Executive Officer, said: “It is a great pleasure to welcome Eric to the EIGCA. We created this new partnership category specifically for golf course consultants like Eric and I’m sure that, with his wealth of experience in irrigation, he will find a ready audience when he meets up with our members, particularly at our AGM and Conference.”

Saltford Wall Game

Members at a Somerset golf club have been rolling up their sleeves to rebuild the dry stone walls around their course.

The members at Saltford Golf Club undertook a crash course in the ancient craft of stone wall building from an instructor with the British Voluntary Conservationists to get the project underway.

The golfers who had never been involved in any work of this kind before included retired schoolmasters, an ex-navy engineer, a former council leader, a steam train fireman and a project manager on the Royal Yacht Britannia, to rebuild walls nearly 300 years old.

Peter Williams, a former accident investigator who was club captain when the scheme was launched, said: “Our course is more than 100 years old and many of the walls had deteriorated.

“Some areas had to be completely stripped to clear tree roots.”

The greenskeeping staff has helped by using its heavy equipment to clear areas and transport the bigger stones to where they are needed.

Head Greenkeeper, Darren Moxham, said: “I am delighted the members have undertaken this work which has added to the image of this attractive golf course.”
BIGGA and the GCSA have forged an alliance, which will benefit golf course managers on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond. The formal agreement sees the two largest associations in the industry working in collaboration to continue to raise standards in course management, demonstrate a global commitment to sustainability and to enhance the professional image and status of Golf Course Managers and Superintendents.

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EGEU Launch New Website

The European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) is pleased to announce that a new website has been developed to complement the already existing EGEU website (www.egeu.eu).

The new website, designed in association with The Greenkeepers’ Training Committee (GTC) and the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU), is based on a Quality Assured scheme of centres, and specialist training providers, all having met a criteria and available to offer both formal and bespoke training courses. Employers and greenkeepers are encouraged to view the new website as there are courses and contacts available to assist with successful staff and management development.

The GTC’s David Golding, a Director of the EGEU, believes the new website will develop into the independent information portal for the sector as more countries look to establish a greenkeeping education and training structure to allow access to learning for all levels of operatives and managers.

Any centre, college or individual involved in delivering greenkeeper education and training based on best practice are encouraged to apply to become involved in the Quality Assured Accreditation Scheme.

David added, advice and guidance will be available to help grow the game globally using expertise in all aspects of greenkeeper education and training structure to allow access to learning for all levels of operatives and managers.

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All of the large field of competitors appreciated the great condition of the Course and its presentation so early in the season.

It was very apparent that Alan Strachan and his team had been ready busy with some good work on the Heath throughout the winter months.

Competitors enjoyed the refreshments kindly provided by Johnny Beck and James Watson, of Sheriffe Amenity, at the 10th hole.

Chairman of the South East Region, Tom Smith, thanked the host Club for, as always, its first-class hospitality and for making everyone so welcome on the day.

Following an excellent meal in the Holderness Dining Room guests were entertained by the popular Ian Richards.

The Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club, John Aarvold, then presented the prizes to the category winning competitors.

The Ray Day Memorial Trophy was won by Gareth Roberts, from Harlsey Common Golf Club, with some great golf to get around the New Course in a gross score of 72.

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HERBICIDE LABEL CHANGES

New CRD (Chemical Regulation Directive) label requirements for herbicides approved for use on non-porous, hard surfaces, require increased targeting of spray applications, important in protecting water and optimising application efficiency.

That’s the view of Bayer’s, Dorin Hop, who has monitored the new requirements. “These new label requirements – Regulatory Update 42 – will apply to all herbicides used on paved and other non-porous surfaces,” explained Dorin.

The new legislation, aligned to the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides and the EU Water Framework Directive, has come into action to help minimise the use of herbicides and to reduce run-off into drains which poses a pollution risk.

“Herbicides used on such surfaces, the path of movement following application, mirrors that of rainfall, often being directed into drains and gutters. This potential pollution risk is one that must be prevented to deliver environmental protection which otherwise hinders compliance with EU and UK directives relating to pesticide use and protection of water resources.

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Renovation Work to Witness

The opportunity of visiting Birch Grove Estate, in Sussex is a course which rarely opens its doors to witness renovation work being carried out, has arisen. Greenkeepers can visit this closed course while it is being renovated using the latest machinery from Campey Turf Care Systems, on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25, April. Birch Grove Estate was acclimated by a select few as the best 18 holes in Sussex. No expense was spared in its construction and the millions spent created a golf course of absolute perfection. Birch Grove is now under new ownership and is to be given a new lease of life.

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“Under the view of Bayeux, Dorin Pop, who has maintained the new requirements, "These new label requirements - Regulatory Update 2", will apply to all herbicides used on paved and other non-porous surfaces," explained Dorin.

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The South East Region of EIGUA is most grateful to the following companies for their generous sponsorship and help with this event: Argo Amenity Products; Blade Anonymity; CWAI; Eison Day; Evers; Golf Mates UK; Grass Roots/Dryjet UK; JDSM, P. Trackwell Ltd, Rigby Taylor; Sherriff Amenity; Speedcut Contractors Ltd; Sisia; Dennis

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Thanks, Angela

BGGA said farewell to its Assistant Accountant, Angela Wilson, at the end of March. Angela is moving home, with her partner to Scotland, for a much deserved early retirement.

Everyone at BGGA House wishes her well in her new venture. North of the Border, and presented her with a new running kit to thank her wholeheartedly for the second-hand clothing she has kindly given upon clearing out her home.

Michael Lathrope (Mick) shown above second from right, moved from Maylands Golf Club, near Romford, to take the Head Greenkeeper’s job at Eaton Golf Club in Norwich in March 1972 – he’s still there today. He left the ‘Simon’ with his wife, Lili, who he had recently married at the time and began a new life in Norfolk.

Now, 40 years on, he has three daughters, Joyce, Kate and Tina, and five grand children - with twins on the way. With a reputation of hard work and loyalty second to none, he has been East Anglia’s scribe to the magazine for many years.

He has strong relationships with fellow Greengrocers and Trade alike. Mick has successfully worked to get the current young crop of greengrocers qualified, as he has since 1981.

There have not been many changes within the team at Eaton, testament to the great working environment that Mick creates.

The current green staff has over 130 years of combined service at the club.

His team at Eaton, and everyone who has had the pleasure of knowing Mick wish him all the best on achieving this landmark and look forward to the years ahead.

Eaton’s Mick Hits 40

Supporting the Future

The Golf Foundation supports the development of golf in schools and the links between schools and clubs.

Through its efforts, the Golf Foundation has dramatically increased the number of schools delivering golf in England from 14% to 44% and the number of schools with links to clubs from 9% to 30%. In addition, the Golf Foundation is reaching youngsters in inner city areas and is providing support for projects and activities for disabled children. It has also contributed significantly to the growth of junior golf in Scotland and Wales.

However, there is so much more to be done to make it possible for all children to experience our wonderful sport and all the benefits it has to offer. The only limiting factor is the amount of funding available. Therefore, the Golf Foundation has launched a new fundraising campaign – GOLF19.

All those who work in the sport are encouraged to support the next generation by texting GOLF19 £2 to 70070 and the Golf Foundation will receive 100% of the donation.

We all enjoy being part of the golfing community, and it’s important that we acknowledge what the Golf Foundation has done for the sport, especially in its 10th anniversary. This is why BGGA is supporting the GOLF19 campaign and is encouraging members to make a donation.

So March broke all records for warm weather and lack of rain, certainly in the East of Scotland, and it was so good to be out dealing with irrigation issues, with sun on your back, and seeing all the golfers with smiles on their faces, in warm weather clothing. The course has greened up, it’s beginning to look nice and healthy again and growth is filling out the winter wear areas.

I’d like to start by thanking Peter Boyd for his loyal and dedicated service to BGGA.

We wish him all the best in his retirement and I know he will be missed by all who have come to know him as a friend. I’d also like to wish Angela Wilson, from our accounts department all our best wishes as she moves to Scotland, and to thank her for her excellent work during her time at BGGA.

Feedback from all the National conferences and events has been very positive, and there is definitely a more positive outlook on the golfing front. I attended the one week sustainability Management Development Programme Level II Course, excellently hosted by the Club Managers Association of America, the Industry leaders in this field. I’m glad to report BGGA played their part with, the CEO, Gordon, our CEO and Gordon McIlroy, ST Andrews both doing a great job in representing our Association.

Well done to all involved! The other speakers were also excellent and the company of the delegates all working at a variety of clubs made for an interesting week.

We are considering the possibility of running such a course here in Harrogate. Whether you decide to move into management at your club or not, having an understanding of the full picture and the management issues facing the club as a whole gives you a very good perspective in considering how you manage the course and the impact of all the decisions you make. It also teaches you the vital importance of good communication.

I am planning my next trip to China, on behalf of Ealing Golf where I will be teaching Golf Course Superintendants. I’ll also take the opportunity to further discuss how BIGGA may be of benefit to International members there.

You may be aware that a private members bill was presented to Parliament to consider moving our clocks forward one hour. This has been delayed due to lack of time, but it will surface again as there is a large body of support behind it. BIGGA had previously been opposed to this about 10 years ago when it first surfaced. Our opinion has once again been sought by various bodies. I would ask you not to rush to conclusions and that we work to form an informed opinion of the impact this may have, looking at positives and negatives if we can.

No doubt, it does not rest on our opinion whether it proceeds or not, but others in the industry would be wise to understand the impact before making their own positions clear. For example: in the shoulder seasons (spring/autumn), we will have longer evenings, potentially allowing more golf and a useful revenue stream to the golf clubs. Conversely, preparation time in the morning will be limited if golfers are still to get a round in before lunch, and maintenance schedules could be under severe pressure to keep ahead of play.

Potentially secure income at present could therefore come under threat. It would be useful to have a wide consultation and ensure its impact is understood.

On another subject, The R&A is working to protect the enjoyment of the game and to safeguard the financial operations of golf facilities, in a manner which preserves natural environments and enhances community engagement. Their website has a vast array of content which will help and support you to understand this subject better. You can access it through the BGGA website under the “Sustainability” page under “Resources” or at www.randa.org/en/Th eGolfCourse.aspx

I hope you are all excited and as prepared as you can be for the season ahead, whether its dealing with too dry, too wet, too hot, too cold, turf problems, machinery problems, whatever, you can always seek the help of your fellow members on the forum as there will always be someone else reading it who has faced the same challenges.

The dreaded “M” golf major is just round the corner. Although it leaves many of us facing very high expectation levels, on the plus side it drives golf participation, and revenue and I like to think the gap between what we can all produce now with the skills and resources we have, and what they have done for years, has now widened.

I hope for all of you your season gets off to a good start. Remember to use BGGA to seek any advice or support you need, and if you have any suggestions on anything you think BIGGA should be considering, then let them know. Meet and regrets.

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