Seaweed 3-0-15, Bio Booster 8-7-7 and both Humic and Fulvic Acid amendments, totalling 55 litres. The total cost for the 6 applications is around £2,100. Fertiliser applications have continued largely as before, rising in 2011 but falling back this year with an expected total of N75-P3-K160 being applied.

The greens have been regularly aerified throughout the past 3 years using a mixture of tine sizes and depths. All greens were recently hollow-cored with 13mm tines at 50mm centres and deep tined in March. About 100 tons of sand top dressing are applied each year in monthly applications.

The PGR Primo Maxx is applied every 2 weeks in season, mixed with a small amount of foliar N. After being cored, Bent was over-seeded broadcast style in mid-September. Summer mowing height is usually 3mm, but this season it has remained at 4mm due to the high rainfall and limited use of vibrating rollers. This year, Liquid Air was applied after coring and also on occasions when aeration couldn’t take place due to the wetness of greens surfaces: this being a trial program has been consistent for the past 2 years.'

Results to date
So after 2 years have the objectives been achieved? James concludes; 'The greatest difference has been the reduction in OM content, falling from around 35mm to 20mm, this in spite of a very wet summer. Root depth has generally increased, with most greens supporting a root depth of between 60 and 70mm. The total cost for the 6 applications is around £2,100. Fertiliser applications have continued largely as before, rising in 2011 but falling back this year with an expected total of N75-P3-K160 being applied.

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James concludes; 'The greatest difference has been the reduction in OM content, falling from around 35mm to 20mm, this in spite of a very wet summer. Root depth has generally increased, with most greens supporting a root depth of between 60 and 70mm. Disease pressure is still a threat but not as virulent as before and the number of fungicide applications have been reduced to 5, with most now being preventative to ward off Anthracnose and Fusarium as opposed to being curative. Whether or not this number of applications is still required remains to be seen but with memories of severe scarring in the past, perhaps I’m erring on the side of caution.

There may be no hard evidence to vindicate the use of compost teas, nevertheless the health of the greens have improved and more progress has been made since 2010 than in the previous decade so something must be working.'

James adds, the next step is to take measurable data of bacteria counts before and after and to compare greens with fairways and that is on the agenda for my next meeting with Symbio. I aim to make a few tweaks to the current program by introducing Phosphite into the tank mixes during the latter part of the year and to increase the amount of top dressing by 20 to 40 tons. That apart, I am satisfied that the investment made in applying compost tea has led to a steady improvement and will help Long Ashton to become more sustainable in the future.’

Summary
A healthy living soil with a good microbial population will give the best opportunity for growing and managing fine turf. That is without doubt. What is in doubt is whether adding additional soil microbes in whatever form to a greens root-zone will help to achieve this objective for a sustained period of time. Those who have used a compost tea program for a number of years certainly think so and appear to be seeing a reduction in disease and lower requirements in fertiliser. What needs to be established is a measurable threshold of soil bacteria on a green whereby it can be accurately measured to indicate sufficient numbers or deficiencies. It would also help to compare these numbers on the same greens 1 day and 7 days after compost tea was applied in order to verify that an improvement in numbers had taken place. There are numerous other questions to answer, too many to list in this article but there is an overwhelming need to have greater clarity supported by measurable facts and figures. Only when this is achieved and hopefully vindicated is there likely to be a concerted move away from current greens management and less reliance on plant protectants.

TurfMaster One Ltd is grateful to James Braithwaite and Long Ashton GC for their support in producing this article.
Open Support Team Volunteers 2013

How you can follow in the footsteps of golfing legends at Muirfield 2013

Do you fancy the chance to work at The Open Championship 2013...with the once in a lifetime opportunity to walk alongside the world’s leading golfers at one of the finest courses in the world?

This was the amazing reward for several days of extremely hard work – and lack of sleep – for BIGGA members from across the UK, America and Australia at the thrilling Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club last July.

In 2013, the legendary links at Muirfield in East Lothian host the tournament which will be eagerly anticipated by golf fans worldwide. The Open will attract the world’s finest golfers and the public will have the opportunity to get inside the ropes - working – and lack of sleep – for BIGGA HQ.

We need 54 volunteers who have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off. As anyone who has previously worked as a member of the Support Team will tell you, it’s extremely hard work with early mornings preparing the course for the likes of Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and reigning champion Ernie Els.

There may also be late nights on ‘divot duty’.

But, as previous attendees testify, the experience is one to tell the grandchildren about – not to mention a chance to enjoy the superb camaraderie within the team and meet members from across the world.

You will receive accommodation, food, daily transport to the course, a waterproof suit and polo shirts – all you have to do is make your way to Muirfield.

The first tee shot will be struck on Thursday 18 July, with the final putt sunk on Sunday 21 July.

We will need a pre-prep team from Tuesday 16 July, with the remaining team arriving on the Wednesday for a 5pm debrief meeting.

This opportunity is open to all full BIGGA members.

To apply please fill in the application form, together with a photograph and send to: Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF.

For further information contact Rachael on 01347 833800 or email Rachael@bigga.co.uk

Closing date for applications is Thursday 31 January 2013 and selected members will be notified soon after this date.

You must hold a full driving licence.

If you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off. To apply please fill in the application form and enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF.

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In 2013, the legendary links at Muirfield in East Lothian host the tournament which will be eagerly followed by tens of thousands of golf fans and millions on TV.

But we’re giving you the opportunity to get inside the ropes - working alongside the excellent team at Muirfield led by Colin Irvine and with support from the team at BIGGA HQ.

We need 54 volunteers who will all play their part in ensuring a successful tournament. The application process is transparent and we’ll then allocate various roles to the selected candidates.

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How you can follow in the footsteps of golfing legends at Muirfield 2013
An early rise to the top

Craig Boath’s Carnoustie shot scoops the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition 2012

The winner of the seventh BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition is Craig Boath’s stunning early morning shot of Carnoustie’s Burnside Course.

The Head Greenkeeper on the Championship course took the superb shot at around 5.30am on a morning in July on the 5th hole of the course – a short par three.

One of the judges was golf course photographer Eric Hepworth who was hugely impressed by Craig’s picture.

“He’s used the rule of thirds brilliantly – the flag is right on the convergence of one of the thirds and that’s one more reason why it’s such an appealing picture.”

He also went on to give advice to greenkeepers hoping to emulate Craig and scoop the 2013 award.

“The vast majority of entries were shot in the morning light, and I completely understand why this is as greenkeepers are working on their courses predominantly in the morning rather than the evening. However, I think next year it would be great to see a bit more variety.

“Sunny evenings offer stunning oranges and reds (when the weather is good!) which really bring out the best in a course visually, and I would love to see some evening shots included in the next competition if possible.”

Second place went to Trevor Mitchell, International Greenkeeper at the Diamond Country Club in Vienna, Austria, for his spectacular shot of the course.

Third place was awarded to Course Manager James Bonfield for his sunny photograph at the Hertfordshire Golf Club.

The entries were chosen by a judging panel at BIGGA House, taking on board advice from photographic experts Alan Birch and Eric Hepworth.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a photograph, and keep an eye out for how to enter the next competition.

This time of the year offers a fantastic opportunity for some great winter photography, so why not get out on the course now and start taking some shots in time for when the competition re-opens.

PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS

1st

2nd

3rd
An early rise to the top

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One of the judges was golf course photographer Eric Hepworth who was hugely impressed by Craig’s picture.

“The winner really stood out. His technique is perfect—if the sun had been any further to the right it would have been directly in the lens and casted flare spoiling the image, but the trees on the left shielded the sun.

“In photography, and indeed art, we constantly talk about ‘the rule of thirds’ where an image is divided into nine equal parts by two equally spaced horizontal lines and two equally spaced vertical lines. Anyone can go online and find out more about this.

“He’s used the rule of thirds brilliantly—the flag is right on the convergence of one of the thirds and that’s one more reason why it’s such an appealing picture.”

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The top 12 entries in the competition are all featured in the BIGGA Calendar 2013.

January’s picture shows Celtic Manor, taken by Rhys Norville, and February features a misty morning on the 4th at Moortown Golf Club, captured by Michael Joyce.

March’s photograph is the overall winner – Craig Boath’s shot of the 5th at Carnoustie’s Burnside course. April’s image features the 14th green at Cruden Bay, taken by Alister Matheson. May shows the 8th green at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, snapped by Robert Patterson.

June is Stuart Hawker’s photo of Castle Stuart Golf Links, and July’s suitably summery shot shows the 15th green at the Hertfordshire Golf & Country Club.

August shows Trevor Mitchell’s image of the Diamond Country Club in Vienna, Austria. September’s shot is by Adam Grieve showing the first green at The London Club’s International course. October’s selection shows cutting on the second green at Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club – submitted by Chris Mitchell – while November is a view of Fairhaven Golf Club by James Hutchinson.

December’s wintry shot shows the 18th green at Thorpeness Golf Club complete with the windmill and the famous ‘House in the Clouds’ in the background. This was taken by Mark Barber.
The BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition 2012 - Top 12

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The BIGGA Calendar 2013 is mailed out to all golf clubs with BIGGA Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers.

Contact us at BIGGA House or come see us at BtMe 2013 for your own copy – limited stock available.
BTME 2013
The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

22-24 January 2013 at the Harrogate International Centre

Your essential 8-page guide to the ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

BTME is now just weeks away and over a hundred of the biggest names in the industry are preparing to head to Harrogate to exhibit and launch brand new products after snapping up stand space.

Top manufacturers and service providers are on standby for the event which will officially be opened on Tuesday 22 January.

Almost an A-Z of exhibitors have signed up for the show… for the full list check out www.btme.org.uk.

Many are preparing to showcase new items for the very first time – and we’ve included a glimpse of just some of the products that will make their debut at BTME later in this preview.

Don’t forget that BTME offers unrivalled networking opportunities and we’ve included information on how to get to Harrogate, where to stay, where to eat and where to park.

The park and ride service has been discontinued but the map on page 43 shows locations of several car parks which are close to Harrogate International Centre (HIC).

The bottom line is – a well planned visit to BTME makes you a better turf manager.

Dress code for this event is smart casual. Keep an eye out for more details soon, but in the meantime tickets are sure to sell fast so to snap yours up call Elaine Jones at BIGGA on 01347 833800 (Option 1) or email moneypenny@bigga.co.uk

Entry to the exhibition remains free, and don’t forget to pre-register at www.btme.org.uk - this is also the place to visit for yet more on the show plus the full list of superb educational events.

So BTME features education, networking, cutting edge products and services, career and advice and much more all in a few fun-packed days in January.

So don’t delay – get prepared for your annual pilgrimage to BTME.
BTME 2013

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

incorporating:

BIGGA Seminars & Workshops
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Don’t forget that BTME offers unparalleled education through our Continue to Learn workshops and seminars.

We’re also proud to host the third annual Turf Managers’ Conference on Monday 21 January at the Crown Hotel.

Registration opens at 8.15am, and the event gets off to a cracking start at 9am with Dr Thom Nikolai’s presentation on the Top 10 Reasons to Lightweight Roll.

Dr Nikolai is the Turfgrass Academic Specialist at Michigan State University and is one of the world’s leading turf professors. This will be followed by Lorna Sheldon’s Professional Presentations advice with guidance on how to present with confidence, competence and credibility.

After lunch David Bancroft-Turner explores How to Manage the Politics in a Golf Club with dozens of tips and suggestions, before Dr Nikolai returns to the stage with a seminar on Surfactants.

This unrivalled educational day will be concluded Dr Kate Entwistle’s New Disease Update with information on the issues facing turf managers of cool season grasses.

Dr Entwistle has been working in this area for over 20 years and is a leading turf pathologist at the Turf Disease Centre.

The bottom line is – a well planned visit to BTME makes you a better turf manager.

Thousands of top turf managers from across all sports are attending from across the UK and the world, and will return to their workplaces better for the experience.

Can you afford to miss out?

Of course, BTME also offers unrivalled networking opportunities and we’ve included information on how to get to Harrogate, where to stay, where to eat and where to park.

The park and ride service has been discontinued but the map on page 43 shows locations of several car parks which are close to Harrogate International Centre (HIC).

We’re also running the ‘hopper’ bus service again every half an hour between 8.30am and 6.30pm.

This will run between the HIC and Harrogate Railway Station, the Old Swan Hotel, the Majestic Hotel, the Cairn Hotel, the Cedar Court Hotel, the entrance to Hall A and the entrance to Hall Q.

The map also gives the locations of some of the town’s best hotels within the vicinity.

If you haven’t sorted out the logistics of your visit yet now is the time!

Another key feature of Harrogate – as many previous attendees will confirm – is the number of terrific restaurants within a few moments’ walk of each other.

A selection of the best eateries in town is overleaf.

Following the success of last year’s BIGGA 25th anniversary celebration evening, we’re delighted to announce that the Tuesday evening will feature the ‘BIGGA James Bond’ evening at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate from 7pm.

This not-to-be-missed night will feature fantastic entertainment, a carvery and drink on arrival plus other surprises for just £25.

Dress code for this event is smart casual.

Keep an eye out for more details soon, but in the meantime tickets are sure to sell fast so to snap yours up call Elaine Jones at BIGGA on 01347 833800 (Option 1) or email moneypenny@bigga.co.uk

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W I E D E N M A N N U K

Wiedenmann’s six new products will take centre stage at stand C58 at BTME Harrogate. Known for their precision deep aeration, Wiedenmann’s additions grow their range by a further 20% and shows continued commitment to R&D and customers’ feedback.

Sales Manager, Chas Ayres, says: “Increasingly customers who have experienced the efficiency of one of Wiedenmann’s Terra Spiders want to see the solutions we have for artificial turf, mowing and collecting. We’ve just followed customer demand and it’s led us to half a dozen top new performers. Each machine shares in our philosophy to have easy-to-operate kit that always delivers on design and robust build quality.”

The new machines are:

- Core Recycler, uniquely cleans and recycles hollow cores
- Super Pro FKL-2230 out-front mower, with 2.3m cutting width and fold on the fly!
- Mega Twister, blower with 390m³ air capacity and 230° swivel
- Terra Clean 160, artificial pitch maintenance featuring a cyclone dust extraction system
- Terra Clean 100, entry level artificial pitch cleaner without the need for a PTO.

A Further 20% Increase

The new Redexim Verti-Drain 1517 is part of the new high speed 15 series featuring lighter weight machines which still offer the market leading Verti-Drain build quality and output. Suitable for use with a tractor from as little as 22hp and ideal for work on golf greens, the Redexim Verti-Drain 1517 offers a productive 1.76m operating width. It can work to 150mm (6”) deep

WIEDE nMAnn Uk’s new products will take centre stage at stand C58 at BTME Harrogate. Known for their precision deep aeration, Wiedenmann’s additions grow their range by a further 20% and shows continued commitment to R&D and customers’ feedback.

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At BTME 2013 Dennis and Sisis will be exhibiting the Sisis Autoslit TM1000, this popular tractor mounted scarifier gives the user a combination of scarification and linear aeration. Available with either 1mm, 2mm or 3mm tungsten tipped blades and variable spacing options, scarification, verticutting & aeration can be completed while contra rotating reels ensure a clean and consistent groove. The floating unit affords fast ground coverage and working width and depth are 40mm and 30mm respectively. Also on display, the Sisis Autostop purpose-built, easy to operate pedestrian slitter is ideally suited to out-field and fine turf work to aid compaction reduction and water percolation. The Dennis range on show includes the Razor Ultra 560 mowers developed for golf greens and tee's, cricket pitches and bowling greens. The eleven blade cutting cylinder is relief-ground for improved cut quality and longer inter-grid intervals. The Raar Ultra 560 also incorporates heavy duty independent cutter and roller clutches for smooth take up, an ultra-short wheelbase for undulating greens work, tungsten tipped groomer to cut lateral grasses prior to cutting and quick height adjuster.

Cut width is 560mm (22”) and the Honda GX120 easy start, long life engine, with Q9 technology, ensures low noise & vibration levels. The Razor Ultra 560 is also available with a seven bladed cutting cylinder, T-bar or loop handle option and powered transport wheels for fast transit between greens.

Dennis & Sisis

Great Top Dressing Brush

Superior Sports Turf

Superior Sports Turf

Specially developed to help turf professionals achieve optimum results, the Vitax Amenity product portfolio include ranges of turf fertilisers

Call 01530 510060 or visit our website at www.vitax.co.uk

Charterhouse Turf Machinery will introduce the latest addition to the renowned Verti-Drain range at BTME 2013.

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