Around The Green

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Southern Region

South East

Central Region

Yorkshire

Midland Region

North West

Overseas

The match was a great day's

This year I have been thinking of writing an article before Christmas for the Green for you all to have something to read over the festive period. We also have a Facebook page The 07952 email is very valuable for the information on which you can enjoy this amazing feature you have at your fingertips. Adam Matthews
greenkeepers and groundsman alike as they continue to battle in trying to manage their turf, the hope that they bring a much kinder year, the industry needs it. I have just returned from the excellent South West and Wales Regional Seminar.

It was a great day facilitated by our hard working regional administrator Jane Jones. Speakers included our very own Rob Wills from Remedy Oak who gave a very polished performance and now has to do it all again at BTME in January.

Confirmed speakers to date are John Lockyer, Course and Grounds Manager at Roe- hampton Club and Paul Lowe, Technical Sales Manager with Symbio.

We have are waiting to hear from three more speakers and as soon as the final line up is arranged I will be in touch.

Come along and sup- port the day which is excellent value, provides some great education, excellent networking opportunities and accure you some money.

The C.P.D. system is currently being reviewed and is becom- ing increasingly important in your own development as a greenkeeper. Full details of the seminar and application forms will be sent out very early 2013 along with our fixture cards for 2013 which have almost been completed.

DECEMBER 2012

Date Event Venue Contact
December 2nd Midland Section Event Sutton Coldfield Golf Club Andrew Smith Email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
December 3rd STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Manage ment Part 1 Tunbridge Wells Golf Club Rachael Godfrey, tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
December 4th South Coast Section Winter Event Hayling Golf Club Alex McCome Email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
December 4th STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Manage ment Part 2 Tunbridge Wells Golf Club Rachael Godfrey, tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
December 5th East of England Section Rutland Country Golf Club Bruce Hicks tel: 01205 359925 or 07931 714922 Email: bruzechicks@gmail.com
December 5th East Anglia AGM & Golf Day Thorpeness Golf & Country Club Ian Willett tel: 07902 235396 or Email: biggeanteanglia@google.co.uk
December 6th STRI Regional Training – Pests, Weeds and Diseases Tunbridge Wells Golf Club Rachael Godfrey, tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
December 6th Sports Section Event and AGM The Locker Golf & Country Club
December 7th Surrey Section AGM Guildford Golf Club Ron Chrisite tel: 02086 543061 or Email: ron-apps1@talktalk.co.uk
December 10th Sussex Section AGM
December 12th Northern Section Event Bracken Ghyll Golf Club Andrew Slingsby Email: slingbyfamily@virginmedia.com
December 12th South West Section Christmas Day Golf The Oxfordshire Matthew Nutter
December 13th Devon & Cornwall Section Ashbury Manor George Pitts, tel: 07929 754401 or Email: georgepitts0929@gmail.com
December 13th London Section AGM Versal Golf Club Adam McColly, tel: 07886 513975 or Email: adammccolly@hotmail.com
December 14th South Wales Winter Competition Southdowns Golf Club Rachael Knight tel: 01834 842165 or Email: rachael@ bowood.co.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

Around The Green

Mike Ellis

December 6th

The golf format for the day was individual Stableford play for the “Bayer Cup.” The top three competitors all ended up with 32 points, but the winner on countback was Lee Kirk (MST), in second place was Anthony “Jackie” James (Killow) and in third was David Dave (Porthpean). Prizes for places were sponsored and presented by Dave Orchard from Bayer Crop Science. Nearest the pin on the 2nd was won by Lee Kirk and the longest drive on the 18th was won by Adrian West (St Mellion).

Richard Japes, Sports Metals sponsored and presented these prizes. A massive thank you to the two sponsors for the day, Bayer and Sports Metals.

After the fantastic lunch, the members were treated to a presentation by Dave Orchard on “How to get the most from your Fungicides” determining the different actions of fungicides and identifying the stage of the disease you are trying to treat and making sure that the prod- uct applied has the capability to deal with tasks in hand.

A big thank you to Rob and his team and to all at Bowood Park Hotel and Golf Club for their very kind and wonderful hospitality throughout the day.

Our Christmas meeting is to be held at Ashbury GC on Thursday 13 December, the format for the day will be either pay golf or an organized team event or attend the course walk. This will be followed by Christmas lunch, prizes and raffle. Indicating this there will be the opportunity to explore part in various activities including seeing some indoor bowls, ten-pin bowling. The theme for the day will be “Devon v Cornwall”. There will be the opportunity to book accommodation at £25, this includes bed and breakfast and a round of golf for the day. Please contact me ASAP to secure your space as we expect this to be very popular!

Our first meeting of the New Year will be at Bowood Park Golf Club on Wednesday 9 January.

I’m sure everyone is aware of Billy Mitchell’s tremendous achievement of almost 50 years at the club and of his dedication to the industry.

Billy has been at the forefront of many trials and new initiatives over the years and is held in very high regard throughout the industry.

That coupled with Perran- porth being one of the most nat- ural and unique Links courses in the country, we expect to see this to be a very popular meeting.

Invites for this meeting will be sent out in early December.

GEORGE CLAYTON, STRI Regional Training Manager Part 2

South Wales Section Dinner and Dance, what an evening it was, fantastic to see so many of you sharing the evening with our bequest holders and partners. I know we all spend a lot of our time at work and I do feel it is nice to all come together back to the Wags as they are so often known.

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SOUTH WALES

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Thank you to all your companies for its 24th year at the HIC, 22-24 January 2013

The hope is that 2013 will bring a new look to the Industry.

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Come along and sup- port the day which is excellent value, provides some quality education, excellent networking opportunities and accrues you some CPD points.

The CPD system is currently being reviewed and is becoming increasingly important in your own development as a greenskeeper. Full details of the seminar and application forms will be sent out very early 2013 along with our future calendar for 2013 which have almost been completed.

Looks like a good year ahead and we start at Remedy Oak Golf Club for our golf days. As you will know with the new method of communicating to you and are emailing mail, this is mainly due to spiralling postage costs and as we are trying to be prudent with our expenses, this is a fairly easy decision to make. If you do not receive emails from us it will be because we don’t have your current email address, so please make sure you update your records. You can email me at southwestsegregrass@gmail.com

Christmas and a Happy New Year, I hope it brings you and your loved ones all that you and they wish for.

Make sure 2013 is to attend as many section events as possible, we need your support and together as a section we are stronger for your presence and that support.

Also BTME is a great week and it needn’t cost the earth. There are scores of free semi- nars along with some very good value seminars and workshops not forgetting the show.

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We will start with our first ever South Wales Section Dinner and Dance, what an evening it was - fantastic to see so many of us sharing the evening with our fellow professionals and partners. I know we all spend a lot of our time at work and I do feel it is nice to all get back to the Wags as they are so often known.

Then I want to thank you all for your contribution and I would like to thank Gareth Knight for such a great event.

The sponsors/patrons, without companies purchasing the tables this dinner would not have been a massive thank you to all your companies and please after seeing many of the complimentary emails going around please be sure to thank next year - thanks again.

There are scores of free seminars and application forms will be out in early December and will be sent out very early 2013 along with our future calendar for 2013 which have almost been completed.

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Trust the talents of the greenkeeper

At this time of seasonal goodwill GTC Chairman Donald Steel appeals to all golf course owners, Secretary Managers and Chair of Greens to trust the talents of their Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper

I believe the GTC employer focused workshops are helping to “educate” the golfer on the importance of the employer-Course Manager partnership.

The Prime Minister may not have had greenkeepers in mind when he said in a recent speech “aspiration is the engine of progress”. However, he might well have done.

One of the virtues of modern greenkeepers that impresses me is their ambition.

Ambition to forge a career on leaving school, ambition for qualifications, ambition to broaden horizons and ambition to seek top jobs.

It is no longer a retreat when all else fails.

In the past, greenkeepers learned largely as they went along.

Most operations had to be carried out by hand and they sweated blood.

Greens were cut with machines that were hard to push and they walked them from green to green, raking a bunker or two on the way.

It is easy to see now that modern greenkeeping has more appeal.

Former generations never complained (well hardly ever!) any more about professional golfers lamented the use of hickory-shafted golf clubs.

It was all they knew.

Even the far-sighted couldn’t have envisaged large metal headed woods and driving distances in excess of 350 yards.

Nob old-time greenkeepers have fast-forwarded their remote controls to contemplate cutting 18 greens in two or three hours or the fleet of sophisticated machinery at their disposal valued perhaps in excess of half a million pounds.

It is also sobering to look back on the quaint make-up of Green Committees with the Head Greenkeeper nowhere to be seen.

He had to obey committee members’ instructions that were often based on the craziest notions.

There were inevitably muddles under the breath but only the strongest could mount much of a protest.

Education of young greenkeepers has undoubtedly led the surge for knowledge that is impossible to oppose.

At the same time, it has prompted better communications, resulting in Secretaries, committees and members learning as well.

GTC seminars and roadshows have proved immensely popular in bringing together Green Committee Chairmen, Secretary-Managers and Head Greenkeepers, the prime figures in ensuring the best possible results without interference from golfers themselves.

Nevertheless, the ideal situation would be one, fast approaching, where all golfers are educated enough to appreciate the role of the head greenkeeper.

If a Club has a Green Chairman who is really effective, and works well with the head greenkeeper, he should be kept in his post as long as he is willing.

The same arrangement should also exist at public and daily-fare courses.

It might even be more important at such courses.

A green fee paying golfer is just as interested in the condition of courses as a private member paying a hefty subscription.

“It always amuses me that golfers rarely offer hints to the chef at their Clubs on how to concoct their culinary delights, but they feel an entitlement to dabble in technical matters as to how greens are cut or bunkers raked”

He plays wherever he likes.

In that case, the owners of courses need to work closely with their greenkeepers if they want to attract and retain business.

If golfers enjoy what they find, they will return, and enjoyment is usually governed by condition.

It is in the greenkeeper’s best interests to encourage such a relationship and for the Green Chairman to be knowledgeable enough to understand what may be explained to him.

It always amuses me that golfers rarely offer hints to the chef at their Clubs on how to concoct their culinary delights, but they feel an entitlement to dabble in technical matters as to how greens are cut or bunkers raked.

As more and more greenkeepers attain technical excellence, it makes no sense that their every move has to be scrutinised.

They are appointed on account of their experience and technical qualifications and it is their course.

They are perfectly prepared to be judged on results over a reasonable period but, like the members in their own workplace, they should be allowed to get on and do their job without somebody constantly looking over their shoulder.

Donald Steel, GTC Chairman, returns with a monthly update

CROSSWORD

Across

1 Collectively, the provision of welfare payments (8)
2 Symbolic device (6)
3 Sacred object revered by Hindus (7)
4 In a customarily accepted way (7)
5 Mother-in-law of Ruth (5)
6 Strong adhesive - generally cyanoacrylate (9)
7 US-Canadian sci-fi series based on Gene Roddenberry’s original Star Trek material (8)
8 Very briefly or very soon (7)
9 Small version of larger 'bunny boiler' to dictionaries (9)

Down

1 To sponge or cadge (3)
2 Of certain atoms or elements, basic or metallic (7)
3 1967 film which added 'bunny boiler' to dictionaries (5,10)
4 Mother-in-law of Ruth (5)
5 Strong adhesive - generically cyanacrylate (9)
6 Loose Arabian long-sleeved, hooded cloak (9)
7 To function (7)
8 The thick of something (5)
9 Sporadic provision of services based on where people live (8,7)
10 Sacred object revered by Hindus (7)

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every box shape contains the numbers 0 to 9.

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.
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One of the virtues of modern greenkeepers is that impresses me is their ambition. Ambition to forge a career on leaving school, ambition to seek top jobs. It is no longer a retreat when all else fails.

In the past, greenkeepers learned largely as they went along. Most operations had to be carried out by hand and they sweated the small change. Greens were cut with machines but their ambition was to get the job done. Did they achieve their ambition?

The Prime Minister may not have had greenkeepers in mind when he spoke of young people learning as they go. However, he might well have.

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BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers’ Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

Greenkeepers Training Committee
Quality Assured

There are now a number of GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers identified by the GTC Quality Assured logo.
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**Scotland**

**Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB**

Contact: Michael Clark, SRUC, 50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB

- Full-time National Certificate Greenkeeping
- Evening release-Fast Track and Work-based Learning options for SVQ Levels 2 & 3 Sports Turf
- SVQ Level 4 Management (block release)
- HNC/D Golf Course Management (full time and distance learning)
- HNC/D Golf Facility Management (full time)
- Short course in Chainsaw, Tree Climbing and Rescue Techniques, Plant Operations, Pesticide Spraying and Noroso Certification

**50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB**

Contact: Leslie Lowrie 0141-556-3999

**Askham Bryan College**

Contact: Central Admissions 01904 772211

- SVQ Level 2 and 3 Apprenticeship and work-based learning schemes available as well as full time BBTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Turf. Additional short courses include PA1, 2 and 6, Spraying, Chainsaw, First Aid, Manual Handling and PAT Testing.

**England**

**Bridgewater College (Cannington Centre for Land-based Studies)** Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2lS

Contact: Helen Goodland, Tel: 01278 444363

**Level 2 and 3 apprenticeship and work-based learning schemes available as well as full time BBTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Turf. Additional short courses include PA1, 2 and 6, Spraying, Chainsaw, First Aid, Manual Handling and PAT Testing.**
A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeping courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838840 or visit: www.gtc.co.uk

**HADLOW COLLEGE**
Tunbridge, Kent, TN1 1OAL
Tel: 01892 533133
Email: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk
Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk

City & Guilds work-based qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for apprenticeships for all ages. We also offer a range of short courses, such as Health & Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw and Pesticide Application.

Additionally full and part-time courses (post GCSE through to Level 3) are available in horticulture and a variety of other land-based opportunities throughout the UK.

**Oaklands College**
Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0UA
Contact: Andrew Wight 01277 737735
andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
www.oaklands.ac.uk

Oaklands College offers a range of courses including Level 2 and 3 Work Based Diplomas and Apprenticeships in Horticulture including Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, NVQ 2, NVQ 3 for Pesticides and NVQ 3 for Pesticides in Horticulture. We also offer short courses in pesticides, plant machinery vehicles, and chainsaws. Distance learning via on-line and evening courses.

**Plumpton College**
Plumpton, Nr Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE
Tel: 01273 890484 enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk
www.plumpton.ac.uk


The apprenticeships in Sports Turf Management have routes in groundsman and groundkeeper. Apprenticeships are a great way for students to earn and learn and are essential for employers to have trained and skilled staff. Short courses are available for both sites, covering FA, FA, FM, Chainsaw, P & D, First Aid, Landscape design and many more.

Ask about training delivered on-site and bespoke courses for employers.

Contact: Helen Dickson
Call Pershore: 01903 720362 / Moreton Morrell: 01564 766405
dicksonh@warkscol.ac.uk

Students may enrol on demand to find out more.

**Warwickshire College**
Study at Pershore or Moreton Morrell Centre, one day per week.

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dicksonh@warkscol.ac.uk

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**REASEHEATH**
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF
Contact: Gareth Phillips 01270 613236
enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk
www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Block release industry tailored courses include Level 2 and 3 Work Based Diploma in Horticulture / Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.

Brighton unit offers the NPTC Certificate, NPTC courses including Safe Use and Operation of Mowers, Tractor Driving, Hedge Trimmers, FEPA Spraying and others. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice on courses and funding. Open evenings are held regularly at the College.

**Greenkeepers & Groundsmen**
Further your career with a qualification... with a range of full and part-time courses, work based learning opportunities and apprenticeships there is something for everyone including:

- NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf (distance learning) and apprenticeships
- Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Science and Management
- BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management - top-up programme for students with an HND or Foundation Degree
- USA. A new “Top-Up” BSc Degree in Sportsturf Science and Management is now available for those already holding FEPA or RHS qualifications in Sportsturf. Our Work Based learning team offers apprenticeship opportunities throughout the UK.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838840 or visit: www.gtc.co.uk

BE SEEN HERE
Your training provider could appear here, as an advert or listing, in our next edition of Greenkeeper Training. Get in touch with our Sales team on 01347 833800 to find out more
ADDITIONAL full and part-time courses (post GCSE through to degree applications. Such as Health & Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw and Pesticide apprenticeships for all ages. We also offer a range of short courses, in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for City & Guilds work-based qualifications at Levels 2 and 3.

E-mail: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk
Tel: 0500 551434

Further your career with a qualification... with a range of full and part-time courses, work based learning opportunities and apprenticeships there is something for everyone including.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838440 or visit www.thegtc.co.uk

Oaklands College
Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0UA
Contact: Andrew Wight 01727 737735
andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
www.oaklands.ac.uk

HADLOW COLLEGE
Tonbridge, Kent, TN1 1OL
Tel: 0800 121 434
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Tel: 01273 890464 enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk
www.plumpton.ac.uk


Warwickshire College
Sports Turf Apprenticeship

The apprenticeships in Sports Turf Management have routes in groundsmen and groundkeeper. Apprenticeships are a great way for students to earn and learn and practical for employers to have trained and skilled staff. Short courses also available at both sites, covering PA1, PA2, PM, Chainsaw, P & D First Aid, Landscape design and many more. Ask about training delivered on-site and bespoke courses for employers.

Contact: Helen Dickson
Cell phone: 07968 533581 / Morton Morrall 0952 311077
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HADLOW COLLEGE
Tonbridge, Kent, TN1 1OL
Tel: 0800 121 434
E-mail: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk
Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk

A range of courses delivered throughout the South West: Levels 2 and 3 Work Based Diplomas and Apprenticeships in Horticulture including Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. NVQ 2 Anatomy Horticulture (Management). Level 2 and 3 Diplomas in Horticulture (including Sustainable Horticulture) FEPS and BTE (Vocational) Horticulture. HNQ/ HNC in Garden and Landscape Design. RHS Level 1, 2 and Advanced Certificate. Also short courses in pest control, machinery vehicles, and chainsaws. Distance learning available via e-portfolios.

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There comes a time in everyone’s personal development when all the reasons not to have the suitable training or certificate of competence have gone and it comes down to one last, important matter – action!

When it comes to providing high quality training and offering every candidate a positive learning experience, Lowe Maintenance is the place to train. Our team come from a range of industries including long term military service spanning twenty three years, to arboriculture and then into education. Educating has been at the heart of what we do since 2004 when Lowe Maintenance Training was established, although we do run an arboricultural course as well to cater to the needs of the industry.

Our key aim is to provide positive learning experiences through working closely with people to meet individual needs and requirements. We offer a comprehensive range of courses at affordable prices, believing that training doesn’t need to cost the earth and are totally committed to our ethos of providing high quality training.

Our newest member of the team is Demelza, who comes from ten years of working in the educational sector although her rural background of living and working in the Yorkshire Dales makes her a perfect fit. She comes from a strong farming background but started her career in horticulture which was joked about at the time as being ‘the black sheep of the family’ (fancy going into gardening when she was a farmer!). Once qualified she worked in the horticultural sector for a number of years before trying her hand at teaching in the FE sector with students from local secondary schools mainly unmotivated and disillusioned young people.

This went from strength to strength and whilst teaching, she qualified in environmental conservation and gained her City & Guilds (NPTC) certificates of competence in pesticides, chainsaw maintenance, tree felling, tree climbing and aerial rescue and use of a chainsaw. In her time with us so far, not only does she carry out training, but she has developed our website www.lowe-maintenance.co.uk and our Facebook page Lowe Maintenance Training and is currently working on twitter@lowe_maintenance so feel free to keep in touch with us.

Our courses aren’t only for those who want or need the certificates, we also offer training in the safe use of the equipment or techniques. Access for all is important to us, so we offer taster sessions to injured military personnel, people who aren’t sure what is involved in the industry and those who would like refreshers.

We have run courses at a number of golf clubs and the main attraction is that we are happy to come to you and also whilst we are carrying out the courses we are working on the site (no time away for the greenkeepers though)! We’re also now offering the Level 3 Award in the Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate Pest Control. We can’t guarantee a 100% pass rate but we will guarantee you rewarding experiences that can be applied to daily situations.