Celebrate 175 years of innovation with us.

In 1837 John Deere produced his famous plough which cut through the sticky prairie soil. That spirit of innovation continues today with the 2500B/E greens mowers. Their offset cutting units and hybrid technology help to create championship greens the world over.

Now you can celebrate this special birthday with us. We’re offering an extra set of either cutting or verti-cut units, for just £175* with every new 2500B PrecisionCut or 2500E E-Cut Hybrid riding greens mower. These quality extra units have no shelf life. Compatible on models back to 2006.

Just ask your dealer for details of our big birthday offer.

Freephone 0800 085 25 22

*Offer valid from 1 February to 30 June 2012. Available only at participating dealers.
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Happy New Year. We may be in the depths of a recession which is showing no signs of ending but 2012 does contain some highlights that should keep us all interested.

Aside from the London Olympics and the European Football Championships, closer to home, BIGGA celebrates its 25th birthday – a quarter century of providing education and raising the professional profile of greenkeepers.

The Silver Anniversary, along with an Exhibition to mark 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations, will be celebrated at Harrogate this year. Look out for our new Anniversary logo.

The Continue to Learn programme this year is exceptional and if you are still undecided on whether or not to attend I would urge you to get pre-registered and along there. I’ve never met anyone who has regretted going to Harrogate.

The phrase “Lifelong learning” is one which you hear increasingly these days, but there can be few people to whom it is more relevant than Paul Mitchell, Head Greenkeeper, at Harrogate Golf Club.

Paul was a junior member of the club, who began working as a greenkeeper when he left school. He became Deputy Head Greenkeeper in the mid 80s and made sure he was attending BIGGA training courses and keeping himself educated and up to date. When the Head Greenkeeper retired Paul wasn’t automatically given the job but had to go through an intensive interview process. Not having had an interview since he was a 15 year old, it was the BIGGA training courses and the fact that he was in tune with current greening developments that gave him the skills and belief to do well and he was offered the job at the ripe old age of 50.

Having been given that vote of confidence Paul has gone from strength to strength and, as you can read this month, so has Harrogate Golf Club.

On the same theme, we have an article on how technology has impacted on the greening industry with smart phones being almost as vital a greening tool as a blade cutter. It goes to reinforce the need to keep up to date with the requirements of the job. Whereas an ability to mow a straight line would be enough for you to stand out as a young apprentice at the beginning of a career, dealing with Spreadsheets, computerised irrigation systems and Safety Management Systems – you can also see news of this in this month’s issue – to mark you out as a top Course Manager.

There can be few jobs where the jump between initial requirements of the job and those later on in a career is as quite so vast and that is where BIGGA offers so much help. The training courses that the Association can provide ensures any gap in education can be filled at a fraction of the cost of similar courses in other industries, thanks to the support that BIGGA receives from its industry partners in the Gold Key Learning and Development Fund.

I hope you do have a successful 2012 and that I will have the opportunity to see you in Harrogate.

Best wishes

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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JohnDeere.com
The rise of digital technologies in greenkeeping

Scott MacCallum makes an early visit to Harrogate to meet a man who has waited a long time to make a mark on the course.

Take an alphabetic journey through the greatest show in turf.

This year’s Bernhard delegates...

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the Oak Home with the internet and technologies in the grand scheme of things, a fad or is it, in some form or another.

So then, the question could be: is stored. Instead of the current batteries? Instead of the current process easier, with no mess-ups."

Alongside this article is a QR code, one of the best uses I have for Karl’s handy application tool. It’s a simple tool which I developed.
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

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York
BIGGA House
BIGGA Delegation

03/01/2012 12:14

James de Havilland writes.

46 Greens mowers

looks at one of the country’s most
The regular BASIS point article
contractors for winter projects. It
Consider employing experienced
running a golf course has changed.
Jim Cook looks at how the job of

36 Your R&A Services

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the Oak
of Harrogate to meet a man
who has waited a long time
to make a mark on the course.

27 Las Vegas...

This year’s Bernhard delegates...

31 Beware of the OPM

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the Oak
Processionary Moth.

36 Your R&A Services

The R&A’s website - www.randa.
org/thegolfcourse - has much to
offer to golf clubs.

38 Digital technologies

Jim Cook looks at how the job of
running a golf course has changed.

42 Call the experts

Consider employing experienced contractors for winter projects. It
may save you in the end.

43 Ragwort

The regular BASIS point article
looks at one of the country’s most
infamous weeds.

46 Greens mowers

James de Havilland writes.

50 New SMS launching

at Harrogate Week
The updated Safety Management
System is launched this month.
Remember, Remember the Moustaches of Movember

The results of the moustache growing activity of staff at two clubs during Movember can now be assessed.

Staff at the Buchanan Castle Golf Club, near Glasgow, and the Roehampton Club, in London, put away the razors for the month and attempted to cultivate their best moustaches.

The Movember charity, which raises money for testicular cancer, is gaining in popularity; in the UK more than 40,000 men have grown their moustaches in support of the cause.

Richard Campey, Managing Director of Campey Turf Care Systems Macclesfield, has won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the IOG Industry Awards at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton.

Richard has spent the past 25 years promoting and developing the ‘art of best practice’ in sports ground construction, maintenance, and turf management. He has not only enabled him to build a successful company but also to provide important coaching and education to young people entering the industry.

In addition, Richard’s ‘natural instinct’ for the turf care business has also earned him a reputation as someone who sets industry standards. He has been in this industry for 35 years, 25 running his own business.

“I have learned a lot in those early days but I owe thanks to two people in particular, both Head groundsman at the time, Archie McTaggart, of University of London Motspur Park and Bert Flack from Old Trafford.

“Education is important today as it was back then, and this is integral to the way we operate at Campey Turf Care.

Thanks again to everyone for their recognition.”

JOHN DEERE LEAVES THE IRRIGATION MARKET

John Deere has announced that the company is withdrawing from the turf irrigation business, which has been developed over the past six years in partnership with US manufacturer Signature Control Systems Inc (SCS).

SCS will sell existing and new irrigation products through its own distribution network, which may include selected John Deere dealers worldwide.

Under the terms of the agreement, irrigation products will continue to be a part of the John Deere range, but the company will continue to support all customers who have installed its irrigation systems and parts.

“This strategic realignment will enable both John Deere and SCS to focus on their core equipment competencies in the worldwide golf and turf markets.”

The 2012 BIGGA Scottish Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie College, Dunfermline on Tuesday, March 6.

SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

The 2012 BIGGA Scottish Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie College, Dunfermline on Tuesday, March 6.

Speakers include Grant Moir, Director - Rules of Golf, The R&A; Robert Smith, Souters Irrigation Services Ltd/Graeme Francis, Resolute UK; and Les Heskamo MG, Course Manager, Richmond Golf Club.

Other speakers include Robert Patterson, Course Manager, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club; David Vrooman, The Anderson’s, Turf & Specialty Group; and John Philip, MBIE, Course Superintendent, Carnoustie Links.

Tickets cost £35, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, coffee/pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch. Full details and booking forms will be posted to all members in Scotland and further forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator. Tel 0141 616 3440 or pj.boyd@btinternet.com.
Remember, Remember the Moustaches of Movember

The results of the moustache growing activity of staff at two clubs during Movember can now be assessed.

Staff at the Buchanan Castle Golf Club, near Glasgow, and the Roehampton Club, in London, put away the razors for the month and attempted to cultivate their best moustaches.

The Movember charity, which raises money for testicular cancer, is gaining in popularity especially the number of rugby players, growing moustaches, of varying qualities, throughout the month of November.

“I got the idea last year when I picked my daughter up from the child minder and her husband had a big Mexican moustache. He explained that he was growing it for charity and I thought that this would be a good idea for our greens staff to get involved with as we have quite a large membership who are potential sponsors,” said Mark Cummine, First Assistant at Buchanan Castle.

“When I put the idea to the rest of the guys they were all up for it and we are counting down to the following November! We also thought we could have a play on words and call it MOWvember!” said Mark, who added: “I have been in this industry for 35 years, 25 running my own business. I learned a lot in those early days but I owe thanks to two people in particular, both Head greensmen at the time; Archie McTaggert, of University of London Motspur Park, and Bert Flack from Old Trafford. “I have never forgotten how they taught me the importance of instilling your knowledge in the next generation. “Educating the young is the methods of ‘best practice’ is as important today as it was back then, and this is integral to the way we operate at Campey Turf Care. Thanks again to everyone for their recognition.”

John Deere leaves the Irrigation market

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Under the terms of the agreement, irrigation projects will continue to receive our support,” said Gregg Breningmeyer, John Deere’s Global Golf Segment Manager.

“In addition, our European Parts Distribution Centre in Buchs, Germany, will continue to stock and provide replacement parts across the region for the foreseeable future.”

Lifetime Achievement Award for Richard Campey

Richard Campey, Managing Director of Campey Turf Care Systems of Maclesfield, has won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the IOG Industry Awards at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton.

Richard has spent the past 25 years promoting a strategy of best practice in sports ground renovation and maintenance, which has not only enabled him to build a successful company but importantly also help ensure that young people especially have the best possible playing surfaces at their disposal.

In addition, Richard’s “national instict” for the turf care business has also earned him a reputation as someone who sets industry standards – he was, for example, the person who introduced, in 1997, the Koro machine to this country.

The impact this has had on the way sports pitches are managed today is profound - almost every machine that is now a recognised generic term in the industry.

The Award was presented, in Richard’s absence, to Campey Turf Care Systems Sales Director, Simon Gundrell, by Richard Walton from category sponsor Evertis and Richard responded via a video and skype link.

“I am surprised and delighted to receive this award and would like to thank the IOG and all those who voted for me.” said Richard.

“I have been in this industry for 35 years, 25 running my own business. I learned a lot in those early days but I owe thanks to two people in particular, both Head greensmen at the time; Archie McTaggert, of University of London Motspur Park, and Bert Flack from Old Trafford.

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Myerscough College Technical Seminars 2012

Next year’s Myerscough’s seminars start with a comprehensive programme of technical seminars aimed at professional greenkeepers and groundsmen. With topics covering irrigation, root zone science and soil science, there is plenty of opportunity for professional development and stretching your turf knowledge in 2012.

In January and February the regional seminars will cover the North East, South Yorkshire and the Midlands, with guest speakers from Rytonich, Irthlingborough and Symbio there is certain to be excellent presentations on the latest research, technologies and biotechnologies from the sports turf industry.

These are opportunities for career development, in terms of networking with peers from across the world and ensuring BIGGA CPD points, as all these seminars are a GTC Quality Assured.

For Myerscough College reserved students all these events are free to attend. Non-students can attend for a fee of £35.00. If you are interested in attending any of the Technical Seminars please book online at www.tinyurl.com/myform2011

A list of all events can be accessed at www.tinyurl.com/myform2011

New Guide Aids Turfgrass Cultivar Choice

The new Turfgrass Seed 2012 guide, published later this month contains all the information needed to help professional users assess the suitability of different cultivars for a range of applications, and to determine which grasses best suit their particular needs.

The guide provides comparative information based on the results of comprehensive trials designed to test suitability in three key areas of application:

- Winter sports pitches and municipal recreation areas
- Lawns, summer sports pitches, tennis courts, turf and general landscaping
- Ornamental, close-mown surfaces such as golf and bowling greens

A wide range of characteristics are assessed to test and score the performance of different species and cultivars, ranging from physical attributes such as colour, fineness of leaf and award dignity to agronomic factors such as disease resistance, re-growth rate and recovery from wear.

“Breeding new improved grass cultivars is a costly and time-consuming business, taking at least ten years of crossing, selection and pre-commercial trials to reach the market. For professional amenity users, making the most of the investment and innovations by plant breeders requires expert guidance and advice in cultivar selection.”

“Turfgrass Seed is the best available source of reliable and impartial data on high quality amenity grasses, based on trials conducted by the UK’s leading independent centre in turfgrass research,” said Robert Jackson BSPB Trials Co-ordinator.

The new guide will be available online from 24th January 2012 at: www.bspb.co.uk/news.html. Alternatively place your order for a hard copy (priced at £4.40 per copy) via Robert.Jackson@BSPB.co.uk or tel: 01353 653202.

GI NEWSDESK

Email your news to scott@bigga.co.uk

Kawasaki Expands Dealer Network

Kawasaki, is expanding its Power Products dealer network with the appointment of independent based Brian Robinson Machinery. The company will supply Kawasaki full range of professional customers located throughout Yorkshire, Durham and North Yorkshire.

“We are delighted to add the Kawasaki range to our portfolio of groundcare and estate management equipment. The products are renowned for their excellent build quality, reliability and strong warranty back-up, just what our customers have been asking us for,” said Sandy Ellis, Ground Manager of Brian Robinson Machinery.

GI NEWSDESK

Email your news to scott@bigga.co.uk

Kawasaki’s full range of groundcare and estate management machinery is now available throughout the region.

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The London Section Seminar will be held on Friday March 9. It is one of the region’s leading running events and is always well supported.

For more details please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343. A list of all events can be accessed at www.tinyurl.com/myform2011

Golf and Dinner Day for South East Region

The South East Region’s Annual Golf and Dinner Day, at Walton Heath Golf Club, is being held on Friday March 9. It is one of the region’s leading running events and is always well supported.

For more details please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

VOLUNTEERS FOR BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM

Volunteers are once again required for the BIGGA Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship, Wentworth Club, May 24-27.

Volunteers are wanted to help Chris Kennedy and his team at the Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated. Bunker raking duties on the last two days.

A great chance to see at close hand the Course preparation for the European Tour flagship event on the West Course at Wentworth.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.
Chairman’s Word
BIGGA National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, gives his thoughts for the new year

As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary this year at Harrogate we will reflect on the many successes of our members and supporters and the impact they have had on the Golf Industry in which we all work.

in their support during the year ensuring that my time spent on BIGGA matters has not resulted in a diminution of quality at my own facility.

We all need to reflect occasionally. We also need to rest and re-charge the batteries, and I hope you at least got a short holiday during the festive period to do just that. But we also as individuals need to re-energise and focus our forward direction also.

Every year, since I came into the Golf Industry, I have attended BTME at Harrogate. I can say with no hesitation it has had more impact on helping me than anything else.

My knowledge has grown due to all the education I’ve undertaken, I’ve made fantastic contacts who have shared so much experience and knowledge with me. I’ve kept abreast of all the developments and innovations that the trade have brought to market, enabling me to make informed buying decisions on behalf of my employ- ers. Every year I’ve learned something new, and been given ideas that have helped me do my job better. Socially, I’ve enjoyed the company of some of the finest people you will ever meet, who I am lucky to now call friends. It’s re-charged my batteries and set me up each year, enthused, focussed, and ready for another year of challenges and opportunities.

I can’t recommend it highly enough.

My trip to China this month to teach Superintendents for a week was another great experience. I learned as much as the students, and it was great to see them interacting and learning from one another. It was not without incident, I locked myself out on my balcony one evening, and tested my powers of sign language to the limit trying to explain to security, tiny Chinese