GI NEWSDESK

Changing Of The Guard

Following a dramatic conclusion to the 37th Curtis Cup, a ceremonial changing of the guard has taken place at The Nairn Golf Club. The handover, which marked the conclusion of an exceptional 31 year tenure, saw golf course manager John Carson pass on the reigns of the club's proud greenkeeping tradition to Ritchie Ewan, his deputy of 25 years.

In a career spanning more than three decades at the Highland course, Ewan Carson masterminded a Walker Cup, Scottish Amateur Championship, a Benson & Hedges Amateur Open and one of the most coveted contested Curtis Cups in recent times.

"One of the biggest changes has been the development of Nairn from a relatively small club in the north of Scotland to one that is recognised throughout the world," he said. "We are all part of a team here, committed and management, and we have all been involved in bringing the club forward."

The staging of the Curtis Cup coupled with the club's highest entry (23) in Golf World's recently published Top 100 Golf Courses in Britain & Ireland has ensured Mac Carson leaves on a high. "For me, having the Walker Cup here in 1999 and getting the Curtis Cup in 2012 has been a great honour. No other club in the north of Scotland has had both of these events and it means Nairn is one of only ten clubs to host both," he said. "It has been a fantastic adventure which I have enjoyed from the start."

In what many see as a continuation of what came before, the new keeper of the green will be tasked with ensuring the famed Highland links preserves its reputation for its exceptional greens. Discussing his new position, Ritchie praised his former boss and looked forward to where he is now.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside John for the last 25 years," said the new deputy of 25 years. "I have worked hard to achieve the playing surfaces that we have at Nairn which are admired by so many. This shows through in how the course is presented and the feedback we get from the members. My job will be to continue this tradition so that Nairn can be enjoyed long into the future."

The Greenkeepers Training Committee has announced three new dates and venues for their very popular Chairman of Greenworkshops. Presented by Laurence Pithie (MG) the Workshops provide a first class introduction to the role and responsibilities of the Chairman of Greens and are a must-attend for all golf club officials who have responsibility for liaising with the course management team.

With the only goal of a cagey final which looked destined for penalties, Pyrford Golf Club saw off the challenge of West Hill Golf Club to retain the JSM Cup. The preceding rounds of very competitive 5-a-side football were played out during one of the warmest days of the year. The commitment of all the teams led to penalties having to decide 2 of the quarter final matches as well as the semi-final in which Pyrford sneaked past Cuddington Golf Club. West Hill defeated Queenwood 2-0 in the other semi-final.

Before the presentations could take place a penalty shoot-out also had to decide the winner of the ‘golden boot’ for tournament top scorer. Zane Percival (Pyrford) narrowly defeated Ben Edwards (West Hill) during sudden-death penalties, both having finished level on 6 goals at the end of the final.

JSM’s Managing Director David Cole remarked, ‘The commitment and standard of play has been great to see, particularly on such a warm day. Our football tournament is turning into a great social event and we must thank Tony Lely UK for their support in making it such an enjoyable success’. Entry to the JSM Cup was open to teams of greenkeeper’s, groundsmen and other turf and landscape professionals from around the south-east. First played for in 2008, the competition is held biannually.

On Course Foundation Charity Golf Day Success

The On Course Foundation which seeks to find work opportunities for injured servicemen in the golf industry held a Charity Golf Day at Royal Birkdale. Alex Harrison, who is employed full time as a greenkeeper at Gain borough Golf Club after being placed there by the Foundation, took part in the Chandley Properties Ltd team. Alex was joined by Royal Birkdale Captain, Sid Ludlow, Formby Captain, Niall Roy and Peter Unsworth of Chandley Properties. Pictured, from left to right are Niall Roy, Sid Ludlow, Bert Reddick, Peter Unsworth and Alex Harrison.

For further information about The On Course Foundation email info@oncoursefoundation.com or telephone 0208 334 3310.

The EdgeMax bedknife from Toro is manufactured from hardened tool steel to deliver sharp edges to three times longer than standard bedknives. Its superior performance ensures a cleaner cut for a healthier turf and significantly reduces maintenance time and costs. We believe EdgeMax is the ultimate bedknife for all turf. Dual Precision Adjustment cutting units, enabling you to get the best from your cylinder mowers. To speak to your Toro dealer today and insist on genuine Toro parts.

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Pyrford Retain Football Title

GTC ANNOUNCE NEW DATES FOR CHAIRMAN OF GREEN WORKSHOPS
**Wood Boring Beetle Flies into the UK**

from May through to August leaving masses of tell-tale wood shavings around the face of the exit hole. Length of ALB life cycle varies depending on temperature. Each female of beetles larve wek trees which collapse and die. So serious is this quarantine pest that tree felling and incineration is now ordered in all normally sacrosanct priorities including Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and nesting birds. Thankfully none of the golf courses in this area of Kent are affected. Spread of ALB onto golf courses would completely change their topography and lay-out due to a mass loss of trees of all stages of growth and development.

In addition, it would undoubtedly mean significant collateral damage to sports turf from the heavy machinery and equipment used to load, transport and incinerate hundreds of full grown trees. Adult beetles will fly at least 400 metres in search of a food source. If untreated, beetles will fly at least 400 metres in search of a food source. If untreated, the larva will continue to do damage, and the adult will fly back and forth, spreading the pest.

Experience from the US suggests that far fewer beetles will die out. After suffering in 1996 and 1998, ALB subsequently spread into the New England States, Ohio and Chicago in 1998, ALB arriving in New York in 1996 and cost of control run into hundreds of billions of dollars. The Asian Longhorned Beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis) has ever had to face. Asian shrubs the United Kingdom have a restricted host range but in its path. Most insect pests into a lunar landscape as the large areas of the country new infest trees are found with over 1300 healthy felled and incinerated together 100 m radius around each tree so that vectors are filled and incinerated. By mid-June 65 trees with a count of 100 beetle larvae had been identified, full trees were treated together with over 1000 healthy susceptible trees.

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Wood Boring Beetle Flies into the UK

**Grand Finale**

Wentworth’s Chris Kennedy is honoured during the 2012 BMW PGA Championship.

The sun beamed down on Chris Kennedy, Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth, for the BMW PGA Championship, his 52nd and final European Tour event as world number one. Luke Donald produced a dominant display to successfully defend his BMW PGA Championship title.

Chris described the conditions running up to the tournament which brought drought then heavy rain with low temperatures throughout, as ‘the most difficult build up I have ever faced’, a strong statement after 22 years at Wentworth and 50 all told in the industry!

Nevertheless the yet again rejoiced West Course was immaculate and the most recent course changes notably at holes 12, 15 and 17, as the raised landing areas on 18 were seamless in appearance. The great weather for the week brought out a record crowd of over 155,000 for the four tournament days to witness Europe’s finest players competing for the Tour’s flagship title. Donald’s closing 68 for a 13 under par total of 275 saw him cruise to a four shot victory over Paul Lawrie and Justin Rose.

It was an eventful week for Chris beginning with a tribute from the Association of Golf Writers and closing with the presentation of a silver salver on the 18th green during the main prizegiving from the European Tour’s Chief Executive George O’Grady (right).

Congratulations to Chris on his well earned retirement and we wish him well as he relocates to his native Scotland. Good luck also to Kenny MacKay as he takes over the reins from Chris for the next chapter in the Wentworth story. As usual a Support Team of BIBGA volunteers co-ordinated by Clive Osgood assisted with the event, providing back up on the first two days and then each individual match was accompanied over the weekend, by a member. A full complement of forty-five BIBGA Members, from all over the country, took part and had to take on plenty of water in the course of their duties, because of the high temperatures with hardly a cloud to be seen in the sky over the last two days.

By all accounts everybody was kept on their toes with frequent visits being made into many of the well placed and formidable West Course bunkers throughout.

27-year-old Mike Ellis, Course Manager at the Lakeview Country Club in Cornwall, had the honour of accompanying the last match out, and safely brought the winner home on Sunday. Thanks to all of the volunteers for giving up their time to assist with the event, they did the Association and the event proud.

**Wentworth Club’s Chris Kennedy Awarded Tribute from AGW**

The Association of Golf Writers paid tribute to Chris Kennedy, the retiring Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth Club, during their annual lunch at Wentworth Club on the eve of the BMW PGA Championship. The BMW PGA Championship was the 52nd European Tour event where Kennedy had managed the course preparation at Wentworth and his contribution was recognised by the AGW with Chairman Bill Elliott and John Jacobs, the founding father of The European Tour and Honorary Life Vice President of the AGW, presenting a silver Quaich. Elliott said: “We as golf writers talk so much about how much equipment has moved on in our lifetimes and so much over the last 20 years and actually I think the greatest advance in that time is the conditioning of golf courses.

That’s down to fantastic skill, commitment, enthusiasm and passion, no one has that more than Chris Kennedy here at Wentworth. You have been a terrific asset to this club and an example to greenkeepers across the country and we thank you for what you have done here.” Jacobs was also joined by Judy Williams, the wife of the late Michael Williams, golf correspondent of the Daily Telegraph for some 25 years, to present Colin Harding with the Michael Williams Hoggett, awarded to the winner of the Golf Writers’ Spring medal played over Wentworth Club’s Edinburgh Course.
**Wood Boring Beetle Flies into the UK**

UK plant health authorities are battling to eradicate the most dangerous alien insect pest of trees and shrubs the United Kingdom has ever had to face. Asian longhorn beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis) has ever had to face. Asian longhorn beetle has been breeding in China, has been breeding in trees at Paddock Wood, Kent. This beetle can spread. Spread of ALB onto golf courses would completely change their topography and lay-out due to a mass loss of trees.

**Further information** from May through to August leaving masses of tell-tale wood shavings around the face of the exit hole. Length of ALB life cycle varies depending on temperature. Fatalities to birds of prey without a normal food supply soon after the introduction. Each tree infested will lay eggs in the bark and this feeding method can spread. Spread of ALB onto golf courses would completely change their topography and lay-out due to a mass loss of trees.

**Further information**

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**Further information**
Chairman’s Word
National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, gives his thoughts for the month

All good things...

I’ve mentioned the weather several times in my previous reports, but I’ve come to the conclusion that I am a jinx, and just as I think we have seen one extreme we witness another. I hope the guys who endured the recent floods are coping and wish them the best in their efforts to restore their courses.

No doubt some of you will have heard the news that I am moving on, so this will be my last official column as Chairman.

I have been offered and accepted a position on the “Dark-Side” as many Greenkeepers refer to it, as General Manager of Hydro-turf International in Qatar. It certainly won’t be dark there though, and those who know me must be smiling at the thought of my fair skin under that blistering sun. It will be a new challenge for me, in many ways, but I’m looking forward to it.

Leaving my current employer was a tough decision, as I love the job. Elmwood has been a great experience for me from which I’ve learnt a great deal and I will put that to good use in my new role. The direction and location of my new role mean that I must step down from the Chairmanship of BIGGA. That is something I’ll do with some sadness, but also with a sense of satisfaction, knowing that BIGGA is in very capable hands, well supported by volunteer members through all the Sections, serving on Boards and committees that ensure BIGGA delivers to the members. I’d like to thank all the members who have offered their support and advice to me, while I have been on the Board, and all those I didn’t meet but whose participation makes BIGGA so strong.

I have really enjoyed my time with BIGGA, from the day I became a greener, eagerly waiting for the magazine to see what more I could learn, and to see what everyone else was doing. When I got involved on a Section level it was so good to meet so many people who were all willing to share their experience with me and offer support when I needed it. I’d like to thank the Central Section, which I’ve spent the majority of my time with over the years, for their friendship and for teaching me so much. They are a fantastic example of all that is good about BIGGA.

“I leave with a sense of satisfaction, knowing that BIGGA is in very capable hands, well supported by volunteer members through all the Sections, to ensure that BIGGA delivers to the members”

I’ve been fortunate that my employer, Elmwood College has supported me in every way as I’ve sought to learn more, and is allowing me to spend more time serving on the BIGGA Board. I’m very grateful to them for that support, and the experience of remodelling Elmwood Golf Course and being involved in the education of so many greener students. That has been especially rewarding and is so good to see so many of them progressing so well in this industry. The team at Elmwood Golf Course have been a great support to me over my 30 months on the Board and their extra efforts have ensured that while away on business every man, every woman, every greenie has put their best foot forward. I’m extremely grateful to the founding members of BIGGA, and those members who served on the previous Associations before they merged to form BIGGA. Their foresight and perseverance has served to advance the standards of greening and the condition of golf courses. Their input to the formation of the GTC, and to the colleges in developing education is something we take far too much for granted today. Conditions of employment now, and the support and the great opportunities available to budding Greenkeepers are in large part down to their efforts all those years ago. There is still work to be done though, and we have a duty to ensure that the Association they created continues to drive forward better education, support for all its members, and recognition of the huge contribution they make to the game of golf, and the pleasure and livelihoods it provides to so many.

I would like to thank all the current and previous staff at BIGGA. In some ways they work for the biggest greens committee in the country – imagine what that must be like! Their dedication and professionalism provides all the services and benefits BIGGA now brings to its members and I’d like to thank them sincerely for their friendship and continued commitment during an economic period which has not been the easiest for any organisation and brings added pressure to us all.

At the helm we have Jim Croxton, who has succeeded John Pemberton as CEO. I’d like to thank both of them for their support to me while on the Board. Their professional management of every aspect of the Association has ensured that BIGGA developed successfully and will continue to do so going forward. I’ve worked closely with Jim this last year and his energy and enthusiasm, and his wealth of industry knowledge will be a great asset to us.

In July, Tony Smith from Teeside will step into my shoes. I’ve known Tony for about ten years now and he brought me a few pints in Southport at a conference (I bought my fair share since in return). He has become a close friend, and has totally dedicated to ensuring BIGGA serves the best interests of the members. His considerable experience will be of great benefit to the Board and I’d ask you all to support him and the Board in ensuring the Association continues to be of valuable service to its members.

I’ve made many new friends during my time in BIGGA, and I will continue to offer any support I can to an association, which has been so much fun. I intend to continue making the annual pilgrimage to Harrogate to keep up with all the developments in the industry, and to catch up with everyone.

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I have really enjoyed my time with BIGGA, from the day I started greenkeeping, eagerly eager to Full-text availability.

Save the Date - 2013 Turf Managers’ Conference at BTME

The third edition of the very popular Turf Managers’ Conference will take place on Monday 21st January 2013 during BTME at Harrogate.

The finishing touches are just being applied to the conference programme and full details will be available on www.bigga.org.uk shortly.

We are pleased to announce that the world-renowned expert on green speed and performance, Dr Thom Nikolai will be opening the conference and further topics to be covered include the latest talks on Turf Diagnostics, communicating with employers and golfers and Organisational Politics amongst others.

The Turf Managers’ Conference is a not to be missed opportunity to broaden your knowledge, get cutting edge turf management whilst improving your wider managerial skills.

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My wife and kids have been very patient, thankfully, during my time as a greenkeeper and all the time I spent obsessing about the course, and lately with BIGGA. Although I wish I’d have spent more time with my family, I will definitely be spending more time with them and I’m looking forward to it. If they assure me!

So over to Tony – I must admit, not having a monthly column every month for the column is not something I’ll miss, but I will look forward to reading Greenkeeper International and being up to speed with everything. Thank you sincerely to everyone in BIGGA and I wish the Association the very best in the future.

My best regards, Andrew Mellon
Chairman 2012, 07780 995602
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk

GI NEWSDESK

Turf Grass Information File Closer to Full-Text Availability

The Turf Grass Information File (TGIF), the largest online collection of turf related research and information has passed a truly significant milestone – almost 100,000 records are now linked to full-text of the item.

This is a particularly important achievement for users of TGIF worldwide.

Full-text availability is highly desirable in these instances, saving valuable time and effort dedicated to locating physical copies for personal use.

With half of all TGIF records linking to full-text, this means that users of TGIF can access full-text records link directly to content.

BIGGA announced recently that the TGIF has been made available free of charge to all Members through bigga.org.uk by visiting the Members Area; selecting Member Resources from the options on the left hand side and scroll down to Turf Grass Information File (TGIF), from here you can click through to the site.

Back at the end of 2005, TGIF had 108,741 records with only 21% linked to full-text, approximately 23,000 records.

Today, however, TGIF has about 204,000 records total, containing a a little over 102,000 records are full-text accessible.

Once of just six years, the TGIF database has nearly doubled in strength, while the availability of full-text has tripled.

GI neWSDeSk
July is a busy month in the Learning and Development Department. Rachel will be heading off to The Open at Lytham St Annes and will spend the week ensuring that every member of the greenkeeping open support team is where they need to be, at the time they need to be there and making sure that everything runs smoothly.

The 2012 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists (2011 winner Matt Perks, shown right) will be selected and the deadline for the completed Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2013 education programme will be fast approaching.

If you see either Rachael or I in July, we will probably just be a blur!

New Team Member

I am delighted to welcome Stuart Green to the department in the role of Learning and Development Executive.

Stuart is joining BIGGA from Askham Bryan College and will bring knowledge and experience to the department with his background in greenkeeping and the sports turf education system.

His skills will help BIGGA to ensure the development and delivery of the Learning and Development pathways for our members. I’m sure you all will join me in welcoming Stuart to BIGGA.

BIGGA Seminars at SALTEX

BIGGA is delighted to have one of the greatest hits from the extremely successful Continue to Learn at BTME 2012. The seminars will take place on Wednesday 5 September in the Grandstand at Windsor Racecourse.

This month I would like to welcome the BIGGA Open Support Team to BIGGA’s Open Championships from 15th – 22nd July. BIGGA play a valuable role within the Open Championship providing support to the home greenkeeping teams since 1984.

All Greenkeeping BIGGA members are eligible to apply to be on the Open Support Team.

If you are applying to become part of the Open Support Team why not consider becoming more involved with the Association, for example get more involved in your section, join the CPD scheme or attend Harrogate Week.

If you are over the age of 25 why not volunteer to be a mini bus driver or a deputy mini bus driver. Successful applications are then entered into a draw to make up the full team.

Have we got your right email address?

We know you all love receiving your monthly copy of Greenkeeper International, but living in this digital age, BIGGA want to help enhance their performance through the benefits of magnetic therapy.

Visit the bioflow website at www.bioflowsport.com select the wristband colour and size to suit and at checkout enter the code WIG15 in the voucher code field under the payment section.
July is a busy month in the Learning and Development Department. Rachael will be heading off to The Open at Lytham St Annes and will spend the week ensuring that every member of the greenkeeping open support team is where they need to be, at the time they need to be there and making sure that everything runs smoothly.

The 2012 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists (2011 winner Matt Perks, shown right) will be selected and the deadline for the completed Continue to Learn at Harrrogate Week 2013 education programme will be fast approaching.

If you see either Rachael or I in July, we will probably just be a blur!

New Team Member

I am delighted to welcome Stuart Green to the department in the role of Learning and Development Executive.

Stuart is joining BIGGA from Ashburn Browm College and will bring knowledge and experience to the department with his background in agronomy and the sports turf education system.

His skills will help BIGGA to ensure the development and delivery of the Learning and Development pathways for our members. I’m sure you’ll all join me in welcoming Stuart to BIGGA.

BIGGA Seminars at SAlTEX

BIGGA is delighted to have once again, been invited by the IOG to present a series of seminars at SAlTEX 2012.

This year we will be bringing you some of the greatest hits from the extremely successful Continue to Learn at BTME 2012. The seminars will take place on Wednesday 5 September in the Grasslands at Windsor Racecourse.

This month I would like to welcome the BIGGA Open Support Team to BIGGA Open Week.

Lytham and St Annes for this years Open Championships from 15th - 22nd July. BIGGA play a valuable role within the Open Championship providing support to the home greenkeeping teams since 1984.

All Greenkeeping BIGGA members are eligible to apply to be on the Open Support Team.

The 50plus strong team is selected using a number of criteria including experience and BIGGA involvement but there is also a category for first time applicants to ensure everyone has an opportunity.

One of the top 5 qualities of any successful event is an excellent well trained team.

If you are over the age of 25 you can volunteer to be a mini bus driver or a deputy mini bus driver.

If you are applying you must be a BIGGA full member but priority is given to those who have made active involvement with the Association, for example, get more involved in your section, join the CPD scheme or attend Harrrogate Week.

Have we got your right email address?

We know you all love receiving our monthly copy of Greenkeeper International, but living in this digital age, BIGGA want to complement the magazine with an e-newsletter.

To ensure you receive your copy check with us that you have your up to date email address.

Either check the information on your membership renewal form, if this is due or you have recently renewed, or send an email to membership@bigga.co.uk with ‘Email address’ in the subject line.

SALTEX

If you plan to visit SAlTEX this year, 4-6 September, at Windsor Racecourse make sure you check out the series of three seminars presented by BIGGA on Wednesday 5 September.

Whilst you are at SAlTEX don’t forget to come and say hello to the BIGGA Team on stand E33, we hope to be in the usual cabin sheltering from the rain or enjoying the lovely sunshine on the stands outside.

Bioflow Sport Wristbands

BIGGA are pleased to announce that we have secured a 15% discount for BIGGA members off the price of Bioflow sport wristbands.

Bioflow wristbands have been supporting the sports market for over 15 years and are chosen by professionals worldwide to help enhance their performance through the benefits of magnetic therapy.

Visit the bioflow website at www.bioflowsport.com select the wristband colour and size to suit and at checkout enter the code WG15 in the voucher code field under the payment section.
Kubota UK has completed the restructuring of its management team with the creation of a new role for Dave Roberts. Dave left the company in 2010 after 21 years of service and has been reunited back to head up Kubota’s three product sectors as Sales and Marketing General Manager.

The main product categories of Engines, Construction Equipment, and Tractor & Groundcare have historically had a Head of Sales and Marketing reporting separately into the MD of Kubota UK. Whilst those positions are still retained, Dave now sees Daniel Grant into the MD of Kubota UK.

Daniel Grant has been appointed to head the newly appointed European Energy Product Manager, Iain Macpherson, who had previously been a Lead Sales Engineer at John Deere. Daniel’s new role is to provide field sales support and dealer support across all of Europe.

Commenting on these new appointments, John Quinton said: “It is obvious from their CVs that we have added two very experienced sales professionals to our team here at Rainbird. John has a wealth of experience working within the agricultural industry for many years, and will help us in our position as a leading global irrigation equipment and dealer support across their respective territories.”

“Iain has had a long felt belief that golf courses needed to look at cost, particularly in irrigation. Electricity is a large running cost of irrigation pumps and club houses, and cost up to 16% last year – a serious impact on any club’s finances, Iain added. Nick Penn joined the company in 2003 as a Regional Sales Engineer within the Industrial Diesel division. My position progressively evolved to Regional Sales and finally achieving Regional Sales Manager. I was primarily responsible for the sales and distribution into Southern UK as well as Scandinavian/Nordic OEM’s and Dealer/Distributor accounts,” he contributed.

David Timms and Nick Penn have been appointed to regional sales management roles at Ransomes Jacobsen. Both report to UK and Ireland sales manager, John Quinton, and are responsible for business development, equipment sales and dealer support across their respective territories.

Wessex Country

The Wessex Country range has been developed to meet the needs of landowners, private estate owners, and smallholders. In the range, the AT110 ATV is designed specifically to suit the ATV user working to a budget, without sacrificing quality. The topper has a 1.1m working width and power comes from a 23hp (17kW) Briggs & Stratton engine. Cutting is front-mounted and the drawbar allows for use to the left, right, or centrally behind the ATV.
Rain Bird has recently entered the Renewable Energy market, with their newly appointed European Energy Product Manager, Iain Macpherson. Rain Bird has a long history of producing high-quality irrigation equipment and has now diversified into the energy sector. Iain Macpherson brings a wealth of experience in the energy industry, having previously held roles at Siemens and EDF Energy. His appointment is seen as a strategic move to expand Rain Bird’s product offerings and enter new markets.

"It is obvious from their CVs that we have added two very experienced sales professionals to our team here at Rain Bird," said Neil Winfield, Sales Director. "This appointment is a key step in our continued growth in the energy sector. Iain has a proven track record in the renewable energy market, and his experience will be invaluable to our team as we continue to expand our product offering and penetrate new markets."
**GI**

**INDUSTRY UPDATE**

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

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**PRAISE FOR EURO 2012 TRAINING PITCHES**

The England training camp's immaculate pitch in Poland hit the headlines, thanks to Sports Turf Research Institute’s (STRI) expertise in the preparation of the site ahead of Euro 2012. Sporting pundits heaped praise on Hutnik Sport Huta football club’s new Premier League-standard playing surface, pictured here, and Barenbrug helped STRI achieve such impressive results.

Eight months ago, the Krakow club’s pitches were worn and muddy. The FA trusted STRI with creating a world-class surface for the England team to train on that would allow them a lasting legacy for future use. STRI chose to grow the pitch from seed, using a combination of Barenbrug’s sports mixtures. With the team working through Poland’s coldest winter for 80 years to deliver the pitch in time, BAR 50 CDI’s cold soil temperature germination characteristics certainly proved a wise choice.

Seventy-five bags of Barenbrug grass seed have gone to Humlebæk, while a further four tonnes of Royal Barenbrug Group seed (being used across Polish and Ukrainian Euro 2012 tournament venues. This includes the Warsaw National Stadium, which plays host to the opening game between Poland and Greece on 8 June.

**MJ Abbott upgrades The Grove**

The Grove has upgraded its golf practice facilities with a new all-weather practice tee and access pathway installed by specialist sports turf and groundworks contractor, MJ Abbott Limited, to design specifications prepared by original course architect, Kyle Phillips. The replacement of individual mats with a full-length synthetic practice tee will help ensure that the facility can be used successfully and kept clean and looking pristine all year round,” said manager, Phillip Chiverton. Alongside the tee improvement, MJ Abbott was commissioned to replace a short wood-chip access path with a hard-wearing synthetic material to maximise the full length of the practice tee.

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**Further Support for SGU**

Jacobsen, together with its golf car partner E-Z-GO, have signed a three-year agreement to sponsor the Scottish Golf Union (SGU) and boost the governing body’s role in supporting clubs.

The new partnership, a first of its kind for SGU, will see Jacobsen become its preferred and recommended supplier of golf course maintenance equipment, while E-Z-GO will support the SGU’s national events programme through provision of a vehicle fleet to assist with the running of the governing body’s 15 national championships.

Worth £30,000 over the next three years in addition to in-kind support, the sponsorship is the latest addition to the SGU’s growing portfolio of chief ship partners, joining Scottish Hydro and the Paul Lawrie Foundation who were announced earlier this year.

The SGU works closely with Scotland’s course managers and greenkeeping fraternity, a key audience for Jacobsen. It is hoped the new partnership can help this sector improve the condition of their courses and deliver financial savings.

“We are delighted to be launching our new partnership with the SGU. We have many synergies with governing bodies, nationally and globally, providing support to many golf clubs,” said Warren Johnson, UK and Ireland Sales Manager, John Quinton.

Speaking at the announcement during the opening day of the Scottish Open, The Championship at The Grove (Barnsley), SGU Chief Executive Hamish Grey added: “Jacobsen and E-Z-GO are both leading brands and our sponsorship agreement highlights the growing profile of the SGM among key players in the golf industry. We aim to use this partnership to further our commitment to supporting clubs during these challenging times and enhancing our club education programmes.”

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**TORO ASSIST GLENEAGLES RYDER CUP PREPARATIONS**

Glenegies Golf Resort in Scotland has recently renewed its five-year exclusivity deal with turf maintenance machinery manufacturer Toro and its distributor Lely UK.

The Perthshire resort plays host to the prestigious Ryder Cup in September 2014, with the updated Toro equipment particularly helping prepare the PGA Centenary Course for the three-day tournament’s matches. The King’s and The Queen’s championship courses will also continue to benefit from Toro machinery.

Commenting on the continued partnership with Toro, Glenegies golf courses and estate manager Scott Fernie says: “We are delighted that Glenegies has once again entrusted Toro and our distributor Lely UK to provide the quality of products and service the resort has come to rely on over the past eight years. The Ryder Cup will be an ideal opportunity for Glenegies to showcase the exceptionally high standard of course preparation it offers to members and guests from all over the world, and Toro is honoured to play its part in that success story.”

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The Northumbriadina giant earth sculpture is turning green as the swatches of seed sown across the iconic structure spring to life. DLF Trifolium Johnsons and hydroseeding specialists CDTS teamed up to create and apply a bespoke mix that puts the finishing touches to a structure designed for use as a top dressing and as a soil amendment in new rootzones, has enhanced the porosity of the soil, leading to noticeably faster downward movement of surface water while simultaneously optimizing the soil’s nutritional holding capacity.

“The application of drainage and nutrient retention were rapid and clear, creating a far better turf-growing environment and a greener, firmer playing surface within days,” commented David. “As a bonus, the upgrading of the soil’s structure means that moisture is retained for longer in dry weather, helping combat drought and the restrictions now in place on water use. Very clever.”

Significant improvements in water infiltration rates have been achieved on a previously poorly-draining green at Kent’s Sittingbourne & Milton Regis Golf Club, following applications of Everris’ Greenmaster Topdress Z.

Trialled initially by head greenskeeper and BIGGA member, David Horn, the product – a fine particle (0.5mm - 1mm) granular material with an open-sieve structure designed for use as a top dressing and as a soil amendment in new rootzones, has enhanced the porosity of the soil, leading to noticeably faster downward movement of surface water while simultaneously optimizing the soil’s nutritional holding capacity.

“Following the impressive results achieved with his first application, David treated the same green again last September and is planning another treatment shortly,” commented David. “The remaining green has clay pipes lying too close to the surface for mechanical drainage, leading to the poor water infiltration that has been cured now with help from Everris.”

David also said that the green area drains out in less than a day (instead of three days or more following periods of heavy rain). Within a year, the 11th green has gone from being one of the worst on the course to one of the best,” he concluded.

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**JOHNSONS HELP SOW THE SEEDS**

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**Poorly draining green transformed by topdressing material**

Following the impressive results achieved with his first application, David treated the same green again last September and is planning another treatment shortly.

Both previous applications of Greenmaster Topdress Z have followed hollow coring of the affected 11th green, one of four par 3 holes on the 6,295 yard parkland course.

“Although we verti-drain all of our greens regularly, the course has nine older push-up greens dating from 1929, eight of which have benefited from additional treatment in the form of Whizz Wheel trench drainage,” explained David. “The remaining green has clay pipes lying too close to the surface for mechanical drainage, leading to the poor water infiltration that has been cured now with help from Everris.”

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