**GI**

**INDUSTRY UPDATE**

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

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**TORO ASSIST GLENEAGLES RYDER CUP PREPARATIONS**

Glenegles 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 ongoing partnership with Toro, Glenegles golf courses and estate manager Scott Fernwick says: “We are delighted that Glenegles 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 Glenegles to showcase the exceptionally high standard of course preparation it offers to members and guests from all over the world, and Toro is proud to play its part in that success story.”

The Northumberlandia giant earth sculpture is turning green as the swathe of seed sown across the iconic structure springs to life. DLF Trifolium Johnsons and microclover varieties, said: “Our brief was to create a world-class surface for the England team to train on that would enable us to uphold the legacy of our 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.”

The England training camp’s immaculate pitches in Poland hit the headlines, thanks to Sports Turf Research Institute’s (STRI) choice of topdressing material for use at a top dressing and as a soil amendment in new rootzones, has enhanced the porosity of the soil, leading to notably faster downward movement of surface water while simultaneously boosting the soil’s moisture holding capacity.

**PRAISE FOR EURO 2012 TRAINING PITCHES**

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**EVERRIS' GREENMASTER TOPDRESS Z.**

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 foliage colouring of the affected 11th green, one of four par 3 holes on the 6,295 yard parkland course.

“Although we’ve dried out 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 Whiz 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.”

David said that the green also 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 poorest on the course to one of the best,” he concluded.

**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, Philip Chiverton. Alongside the tee improvement, MJ Abbott was commissioned to replace a short wood-chip access path with a hard-wearing synthetic material providing the full length of the practice tee.
NEW PRODUCTS
The latest products on the market reviewed

Less Mowing, More Growing

The current harsh economic climate has seen council forces to reduce their mowing frequency. This has resulted in the requirement for grass cutting equipment to withstand more demanding applications and longer grass. However, there may be issues with roller mower performance in these conditions, which is not surprising as the roller mower was designed as a fine turf mower. To counter this, Broadwood International have redesigned the popular Wessex RMS 360 and RMX 480 hydraulically folding roller mowers, to allow larger volumes of cut grass to clear the deck quickly and as greatly increasing performance in longer grass applications.

The two machines are available as 3 point linkage mounted or trailed on the popular ProCutter chassis and are ideal for councils, contractors, air fields, race tracks and other large amenity areas. Smaller, rigid models from 1.5m to 3.0m are popular with councils, schools and sports clubs. Broadwood offer free demonstrations in conjunction with local dealers.

Call 01420 478111
www.broadwoodintl.co.uk

Basis Points
BCPC has just launched its newly designed UK Pesticide Guide Online.
This comprehensive database provides information on over 1,300 pesticides and adjuvants for pest control use in the UK.
“Heritageprotection.co.uk provides you with essential pesticide information at your fingertips,” advises Martin Lairsbury, editor of BCPC’s The OX-Pesticide Guide.

* Users can access product, adjacent and supplier fact sheets, search for control measures against specific diseases in respective crops and access an up-to-date list of SOLAS (now known as Extensions of Authorisation for Minor Uses). There are also quick links to the relevant documents on the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) web site.

* Responding to user feedback the redesigned site has simplified navigation and options, making it much more user-friendly.

Users now have the opportunity to make more complex searches, and regular updates will be added to the content throughout the year ensuring users have the most up-to-date pesticide information to hand.

For further subscription to plantprotection.co.uk, which is jointly managed by BCPC and CARP, is just £60 + VAT.

BASIS members who subscribe to plantprotection.co.uk can gain 3 CPD points with their purchase and all subscribers will have access to BCPC’s Identikit pictorial diagnostic tool identifying pests, weeds and diseases in 34 UK field crops.

Get a Makeover

John Deere’s 26hp ProGator, 2030A diesel utility vehicle has been improved for 2012 with the addition of hydraulic deck brakes, on all four wheels for increased performance, and a higher maximum payload capacity of 1,594kg.

This new version of the heavy-duty, two-seater ProGator also features enhanced styling, including a green two-post ROPS frame in common with other, John Deere self-propelled machines. It can be equipped with a standard tipping cargo box for use as a general materials transporter, or with specialist turf maintenance equipment for a wide range of applications in the golf, turf and commercial groundcare markets.

These include sprayers (such as the John Deere HD2000, spreaders, sprayer boxes (including John Deere’s own TD045), materials collection systems and other equipment capable of utilising the vehicle’s factory installed auxiliary hydraulic system.

The ProGator has a five forward, one reverse speed synchronized transmission, with a tighter gear shifting pattern, and a maximum speed of nearly 20mph.

It offers a choice of two- or four-wheel drive wheels drive plus full front and rear suspension, hydrotec power steering and a large 36-litre fuel tank.

The tilting steering wheel has five positions for maximum driver comfort.

Cargo box capacity is 870kg and tipping capacity of the rear tailgate is 680kg, whilst overall payload capacity with driver, passenger and loaded attachment has increased by nearly a third.

An optional cab can also be fitted in place of the ProGator’s standard ROPS frame.

Heavy Duty Gator

John Deere highlights its award winning Turfcare Engineering apprenticeship programme with the publication of a new training prospectus. The programme is designed to promote training and careers in the turf care industry.

Aimed at young people aged 16 to 19 interested in a career in land based engineering, the prospectus provides details of John Deere’s apprentice technician and parts training programmes, managed by training provider Babcock.

“Apprentice technicians will very quickly find themselves working with highly sophisticated equipment, from computerised controls and satellite navigation systems to advanced, fuel-efficient engines and Formula 1 transmission technology,” says John Deere Limited’s training manager Chris Withibale.

The programmes are based at Babcock’s purpose built training facility in Ruddington, near Nottingham. The John Deere apprenticeship is the first long term agricultural and turf machinery programme with training delivered in the workplace, with assessment and guidance from Babcock’s team of expert learning advisers.

Technicians on the programmes work towards City & Guilds level 2 and Level 3 qualifications. Turf Tech apprentices can go on to gain the John Deere Diplomas and register at LTA Level 2 in the industry’s Landbased Technician Accreditation scheme, while starting their adult training within the John Deere University.

Applications are now being invited for enrolment on the next set of courses starting in September 2012.

www.JohnDeere.co.uk or call Babcock on 0870 013 0325; an online application form is also available on the Babcock website at www.babcocktrain.co.uk/info/landbased

Xylem Lowara Launch New Floodkit

Xylem Lowara has launched a new easy to use emergency de-watering kit for light commercial buildings, which are at risk of flooding.

The new kit, named Floodkit, contains a stainless steel Lowara PD 03C drainage pump, which requires a power supply of 220-240v in order to deliver heads of up to seven meters. The pump has a six meter long flexible hose, quick coupling to ensure fast deployment and a float switch which automatically stops the pump, once the water level has receded.

The equipment is contained inside a plastic crate that can be used to store the kit when not in use, or as a storage during operation. The Lowara Floodkit requires no special tools to setup, once the pump start-stop is adjusted and the float switch level is set, the pump is ready for use.

Floodkit provides a quick and efficient solution to flash flooding and is ideal for use in flooded basements, garages or in residential and light commercial buildings, such as shops, cafes and offices. The lightweight kit weighs 8kg for easy transportation and comes with a ten meter power cable for ease of use in hard to reach areas. All materials on the kit are corrosion resistant.

Gary Wade, Business Development & Marketing Manager for Xylem Lowara UK, comments: “As with any flood situation, time is of the essence and the Lowara Floodkit can be set up instantly.”

www.lowara.co.uk
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These include sprayers (such as the John Deere HDZ2000 sprayers, 1,300 kg capacity, 92° spray fan pattern, and a maximum speed of 25 km/h) or a 1594kg trailer in common with other John Deere self-propelled machines. It can be equipped with a standard tipping cargo box for use as a general materials transporter, or with specialist turf maintenance equipment for a wide range of applications in the golf, turf and commercial grasscare markets.

The new kit, called Floodkit, contains a stainless steel Lowara DOC3 drainage pump which requires a power supply of 220-240V in order to deliver heads of up to seven meters. The pump has a six metre long flexible hose, quick coupling to ensure fast deployment and a float switch which automatically stops the pump, once the water level has receded.

The equipment is contained inside a plastic crate that can be used to store the kit when not in use, or as a strainer during operation. The Lowara Floodkit requires no special tools to setup, once the pump start-stop is adjusted and the float switch level is set, the pump is ready for use. Floodkit provides a quick and efficient solution to flood draining and is ideal for use in flooded basements, garages or in residential and light commercial buildings, such as shops, cafes and offices. The lightweight kit weighs 8kg for easy transportation and comes with a ten meter power cable for ease of use in hard to reach areas. All materials on the kit are corrosion resistant.

Gary Wilde, Business Development & Marketing Manager for Xylem Lowsara UK comments: “As with any flood situation, time is of the essence and the Lowara Floodkit can be set up instantly.

New Training Book for Turfcare Technicians

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Go Solo With a New Strap-on Sprayer

From cutting back overgrowth, tidying up battered and broken branches or spraying turf for disease, the Solo outdoor equipment range has everything you need to keep your course in top condition.

Solo’s backpack sprayers, boast a generous spraying capacity, and even liquid distribution together with a light weight that allows for longer working periods.

Solo state their compact yet powerful sprayers are ideal for an array of tasks: easily and effectively handling fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides, diammonium and formulations for tree, shrub and plant protection, as well as wood or concrete finishing and treatments.

They are easy to operate and maintain with an ergonomic design, and padded shoulder straps ensure the sprayers fit comfortably against the body.

To find out more about the Solo product range, including the 142 and 154 Series brushcutters, and the 551 LPF power chainsaw, call distributor Lely UK’s Roger Lupton on 01480 226600 or email solo.uk@ley.com.

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www.lowara.co.uk
Husqvarna Turn to Ride-On Battery Power

Husqvarna has announced the launch of its eagerly awaited battery products. A total of seven handheld machines, range of accessories and the flagship of the series – Husqvarna’s first front-mounted Rider Battery (below) will be launched in the UK during late 2012 and early 2013.

Although a number of battery products have already been released, this will be the first unified battery range for Husqvarna. With the same genuine feel and professional results as the petrol range, the battery products will be free from direct emissions and deliver low levels of sound and vibration. The battery range will also provide finely tuned weight distribution and a special energy saving mode. An interchangeable battery system between products as well as a highly efficient quick-charge mechanism is also on offer.

Husqvarna now hopes to gain significant presence in the battery segment. When setting out to design their first-ever battery powered Rider the perfect place to start was its Rider 111B – its lightest petrol driven ride-on lawnmower for domestic use – highly appreciated for its handling abilities, ergonomics and efficiency. The new model builds on the same weight optimised platform, but with completely new technical solutions inside.

Made for the environmentally conscious homeowner it offers not only operation - free from direct emissions - but also an extremely low noise level.

“Our goal was to reach at least the same level as our petrol driven models. A full tank generally equals about 90 minutes of mowing, which is just what you get from a fully charged battery,” explained Andy Eastaugh, Trade Marketing Manager at Husqvarna.

Clipless

Clipless, a new plant growth regulator from Headland, works by blocking the production of a specific gibberellic acid, a plant hormone responsible for promoting top growth in grasses within the plant leaf, stopping cell elongation and upward growth.

The pesticide is absorbed by the grass foliage and transported to the growing points at the base of the plants. One application helps shorten the blades of grass for up to 4 weeks. This results in a more compact growth habit.

Energy is diverted away from vertical growth towards lateral growth and root development, providing a denser, denser sward.

The result is a turf that not only requires less mowing, but also producing a more robust plant with extra ground cover.

Mark Dr Attila, Headland’s Operations Director, concludes: “Not only can it help to create a grass plant more able to withstand all types of mechanical and physiological stress, it also helps produce a higher quality playing surface across all areas.”

Greener than Green Range

Re-Root
Re-Root U.S.
Re-Divot
Re-Dress
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An Open return

The Open Championship returns to Royal Lytham and St. Annes Golf Club this year and Head Greenkeeper, Paul Smith, provided GI with an insight into the preparations for the Championship and some fascinating background links course.

A good ten years have passed since my first Open and much has and also has not changed. We are probably all more acutely aware and recognise how important our roles are in maintaining golf’s green future. The Greenkeeper’s role is given. Our activities affect the ball and turf interaction; a soft course is a dead course. What is particularly significant is how our practices enhance and protect the ecology of our green spaces.

The Open Championship is something very special indeed and to be a part of this is a great privilege. It is a challenge that is given. But no world is without a headache or two or perhaps the odd broken nights sleep along the way. However, my greatest challenge of all still remains keeping the membership happy. These are the challenges and pressures that we all share in seeking near perfection for that special day on the golfing calendar, which are not all that different no matter what course you are custodian of.

It is not until the final putt is made and the champion golfer is crowned that we can put our feet up momentarily before resuming normal business. Then we can reassess ourselves and spend some quality time with our family and friends. It is not always easy to maintain a work-life balance being a greenkeeper and custodians of our precious green spaces. I was once given some sound advice by a wise old greenkeeper as he approached retirement after devoting many years of loyal service: “Make sure you have a life outside work ladie”. And that is what we must all strive to do. Fewer jobs can be quite as demanding but in the same light as rewarding.

The Open Preparation

The preparation and conditioning of the course for an Open Championship is never far from my mind. This work is always ongoing. There is a sustainable ethos to course management and maintenance policies, which are set out with the intent to deliver consistently good standards of play 365 days of the year.

Managing a course in a holistic, sustainable way as close to nature as possible, has always been a challenge for the greenkeeper. Of course it does entail the use of water, fertiliser and chemicals but the art is to utilise these as sparingly as possible to give nature just a little helping hand in presenting a natural course.

Maintaining a consistently good quality course is achievable but delivering perfection is not. With just a little help from Mother Nature and a small amount of man’s intervention we can achieve something worthy.

Royal Lytham and St. Annes presents a management and maintenance challenge. The 205 bunkers that we have on the Championship course provide not only a major challenge to the golfer, but also for our team.

Eighty bunkers have been rebuilt during our last phase of the bunker programme, in tandem with general turf reinstatement work.

A great effort was made to ensure that this work was completed by Christmas. However, this winter has been a blessing compared to the winters of 2009 and 2010. The conditions have been conducive to completing our winter programme schedule, whilst ensuring that we have maintained good winter playing conditions. Specific activities achieve this. This is paramount to ensuring that our water usage is specifically directed to those areas of play that need it. Even with modern day automatic irrigation systems, this is not always achievable. We try to keep returning to a maximum during the winter before an Open. However with 205 bunkers, which require the faces to be replaced on a regular basis, inevitably an element of turfing work adjacent to the bunker perimeters is required.

The playing surfaces are continually being refined. In tandem with regular sand topdressings, light fertiliser applications and grooming.

May to June: Early May presents another real challenge in presenting the course for the Lytham Trophy, which is an early season leading amateur tournament. This year, the course proved a formidable challenge even playing from forward tees, with little rough. Europe’s number one (and the current world ranked number seven) amateur, Daan Huizing, was the outright winner at seven under par, with his nearest rival some 11 shots back.

By the time we eventually reach June and July, most of the specific maintenance schedule will have been implemented and our efforts are then geared towards intensifying our cutting activities, to ensure that the playing surfaces are refined to tournament standards. It all sounds a simple and straightforward exercise, but it can be anything but if the weather turns against you. We have to be well versed in strategies in coping...
A good ten years have passed since my first Open and much has and also has not changed. We are probably all more acutely aware and recognise how important our roles are in maintaining golf’s green future. The Greenkeeper’s role is given, we must ensure we implement affect the original design characteristics of the course, the playing challenges it presents and the playing strategy adopted by the golfer. Our activities affect the ball and turf interaction; a soft course is a dead course. What is particularly significant is how our practices enhance and protect the ecology of our green spaces.

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The Build Up

January to February: The course gets a very early and thorough spring clean. Specific activities will include aeration, topdressing and grooming. This is the period when our manpower resources also focus on the careful process of bunker preparation. During a careful bunker by bunker review, we will specifically ensure that the depth and angle of sand is appropriate to ensure playability for the Championship. The angle of the greenside bunkers is set at 65–70°, fairway bunkers are set at an angle of 55–60°. We aim to maintain the angle of the sand at approximately 15–25°. The sand is sourced locally from the beach at St Annes and is screened on site to remove the shell and pebble content. Sand selection and suitability is always a hot topic at nearly every club, but in its 126-year history Lytham has kept to using the indigenous fine beach sand.

Our aim is to maintain a relatively firm bunker playing conditions that remain consistent, especially near to the face to reduce the likelihood of balls resting close to the bunker faces.

March to April: Activities will focus on ensuring that all our turfing works establish successfully, eliminating the development of seams, and guarding against drought damage. A dedicated team assigned to hand watering achieves this. This is paramount and ensures that our water usage is specifically directed to those areas of play that need it. Even with modern day automatic irrigation systems, this is not always achievable. We try to keep returning to a minimum during the winter before an Open. However with 205 bunkers, which require the faces to be replaced on a regular basis, inevitably an element of turfing work adjacent to the bunker perimeters is required.

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and smoothness. Our target is 15 – 25%.
• Firmness: measured in gravities. Target 100 - 120 gravities.
• Smoothness: measured by vertical deviation in mm per metre. Target <20mm.
• Trueness: measured by lateral deviation in mm per metre. Target <4mm.
• Green speed: Target 10 - 10% feet.

So attention to detail is more than ever closely scrutinised. However, there is an acceptance that these historic natural courses are not supposed to be seamlessly manicured and that the conditions are a reflection of a lifetime of sound environmental, sustainable management policies. Every effort is made to ensure that the playing conditions are consistent and fair which takes a great deal of effort and dedication bearing in mind that three greens are known to have an old clay basin, some greens are more sheltered than others depending on the prevailing wind, elevations vary and temporary structures like grandstands have some small affect again depending on wind direction.

The Course Changes

In terms of design, only very carefully thought out changes have been made. If you have a valued masterpiece you are very mindful not to meddle.

The underlying key to the changes was to make the best players think more about their strategy of playing the holes. Fundamentally, this has been achieved by making sure the hazards at the driving area require the golfers to consider whether taking the driver is the best option. The intention was not to take the driver out of the player’s hands but to add a little more risk to the adoption of an aggressive strategy. There was no target set for the overall length of the layout and each hole was considered on an individual basis and to ensure an even balance of lengths of holes throughout the course.

Some of the changes have been minor but others significant. The work has been varied and has entailed the construction of new bunkers, trees and the creation of mazes along with the development of new dune systems and the repostitioning of the 7th green in 2009.

All the changes are now in play and have strengthened a formidable course. Based on the changes that have been made it should give a stern test than in 2001. What is really pleasing is how well the changes have blended into the existing links landscape, which has an odd mix of elevation changes of both natural and artificial sand dunes.

All in all these varied and subtle changes will only go to strengthen the course further to maintain its modern day challenge.

Ongoing Maintenance post-2001

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Facetile

Current species composition greens:
- Browntop bent: 43% Fescue: 27%
- Poa annua: 23% Yorkshire fog: 5%
- Perennial ryegrass: 14%
- Others: 4%

Current species composition tees:
- Browntop bent: 45% Fescue: 24%
- Poa annua: 17% Smooth stalked meadow grass: 9%
- Yorkshire fog: 15%
- Perennial ryegrass: 8%
- Others: 2%

- There have only been 10 Head Greenkeepers in the club’s 126 year history.
- Henry Gillott has been the club’s longest serving; he served 44 years.
- Average annual rainfall 627mm.
- Average annual sunshine 1526 hours.
- Average day time temperature 12.6°C.
- Average night time temperature 6.1°C.

with the extremes in the weather these days. High winds, strong sunshine and heavy downpours are all conditions that can affect play.

Throughout our preparations well in advance of the year of the Open, the Sports Turf Research Institute closely monitors playing performance. The frequency of the STRI’s visits intensifies as the Open approaches. The objective of these visits is to ensure that specific performance criteria are met which fall within site specific tournament target ranges, which include:

• Soil moisture: measured as a percentage figure. Hardness interaction between the ball and turf is optimised without the potential to compromise turf health trueness.
The Open Preview

The Open approaches. The objective of these visits is to ensure that specific performance criteria are met which fall within site specific tournament target ranges, which include:

- Performance: measured in stroke
- Firmness: measured in mm per metre
- Smoothness: measured by lateral deviation in mm per metre
- Trueness: measured by lateral deviation in mm per metre
- Speed: measured by lateral deviation in mm per metre
- Target speed
- Green speed: Target 10–10.1% feet

So attention to detail is more than ever closely scrutinised. However, there is an acceptance that these historic natural courses are not supposed to be seamlessly manicured and that the conditions are a reflection of a lifetime of sound environmental, sustainable management policies. Every effort is made to ensure that the playing conditions are consistent and fair which takes a great deal of effort and dedication bearing in mind that three greens are known to have an old clay basin, some greens are more sheltered than others depending on the prevailing wind, elevations vary and temporary structures like grandstands have some small effect again depending on wind direction.

The Course Changes

In terms of design, only very careful thought out changes have been made. If you have a valued masterpiece you are very mindful not to meddle.

The underlying key to the changes was to make the best players think more about their strategy of playing the holes. Fundamentally, this has been achieved by making sure the hazards at the driving area require the golfer to consider whether taking the driver is the best option. The intention was not to take the driver out of the player’s hands but to add a little more risk to the adoption of an aggressive strategy. There was no target set for the overall length of the layout and each hole was considered on an individual basis and to ensure an even balance of lengths of holes throughout the course.

Some of the changes have been minor but others significant. The work has been varied and has entailed the construction of new bunkers, trees and the creation of swales along with the development of new dune systems and the repurposing of the 7th green in 2009.

All the changes are now in play and have strengthened a formidable course. Based on the changes that have been made it should give a stern test than in 2001. What is really pleasing is how well the changes have blended into the existing links landscape, which has an odd mix of elevation changes of both natural and artificial sand dunes.

All in all these varied and subtle changes will only go to strengthen the course further to maintain its modern day challenge.

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The results from our commitment to a long term overseeding programme have been gradual but we are now starting to see the rewards.

Our greatest success has been the improvement and development of the fairways, which have undergone a treatment of thatch reduction, turf conditioning and sanding. Consequently the fairway surfaces are firmer, more refined and framer draining. We have fewer issues with worm casting and are less productive in terms of clipping yields. Improvement work on the course is continually ongoing.

Since 2001 we have embarked on a progressive ecological management programme developed to enhance the course’s Biological Heritage Site status, which supports a mosaic of species, rich dune grassland, heath and scrub. This work has not only improved the ecology of the site but has restored the original open character of the links.

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1. Linnet (Carduelis cannabina) is a red data species noted nesting within the gorse. They benefit from a variety of habitats; from dune grassland to feed and scrub to nest.

2. Stonechat (Saxicola torquata) is an amber data species, which is another uncommon bird nesting within the gorse plantation at the 18th hole.

The general theme of restoring an open links landscape and associated habitat has also seen an increase in and special importance to ground nesting birds including both the skylark (Alauda arvensis) and meadow pipit (Anthus pratensis).

The Open Greenkeeping Team

We have 11 permanent full timers, one part timer working two days a week and a member of staff on a short-term contract to ease the workload this year. However, an additional 24 Open tournament support staff supplement this for the week before and the week of the Open. We also have a small team of dedicated fitters and mechanics supplied by John Deere who are providing the tournament machinery support along with Hunter Grinders. So our numbers swell to 40+ during the week of the Open.

And of course we have the invaluable BIGGA Support Team so the level of expertise at hand to help is quite astounding.

For some members of the permanent team it will be their last Open; three of whom Richard Atkin, Phil Medcalf and David Troup have provided the club with a lifetime of loyal and worthy service. Other recent recruits will be experiencing and relishing their first Open Championship. It will be special for everyone involved. One thing for certain is we will all take away some lifelong memories as we witness the most gifted golfers in the world pit their wits against the course, the weather and each other. That should quench anyone’s thirst.

Next Month’s GI - The Open Review

All the news and stories from The BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal Lytham and St. Annes

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