Play on unseen innovation

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course. Out of sight, out of mind. you can forget about hundreds of unsightly decoder enclosures on your time to play on. With the world’s first DIH- (Decoder-in-Head) capable rotor, the no-dig solution for simple and quick maintenance, so golfers have more innovation unseen and below the green. Featuring Total Top Servicing, TTS is Hunter Industries’ TTS rotor keeps all the Good design goes unnoticed.

Return to splendour

The number of golf clubs which boast a rich heritage is greater in the UK than in any other country in the world. To have clocked up 100 years here joins a club to be well deserved if not particularly exclusive group, while to have 200 years of history makes a club rare but not unique.

It is fantastic to know that you can often be playing the same course as the legends of the game, but it does also cause problems.

Courses can become tired, they can become too short for the modern equipment and they can become rendered almost indistinguishable from the original as a result of tinkering by well meaning club members – ill placed bunkers and non indigenous trees providing the main evidence.

Returning such courses to their previous splendour is not always easy but the best approach, finances permitting, is to buy in the advice and expertise of the professionals. That is exactly what Mootown Golf Club has done in bringing Ken Brown, Ken Moodie and John Nicholson to restore the classic Dr Alastair MacKenzie course - the first British course to host the Ryder Cup - to its former glory.

The bunker work, which has been designed by the two Ken’s and carried out by the Moortown team and a shaper, is wonderful and the two “new holes”, the 6th and the 7th, ensure that there isn’t a weak link on the course.

But, as you will see in the Moortown profile on page 16, it’s not just as simple as unearthing the old bunkers and rebuilding them in a MacKenzie style to take account of modern equipment a best guess as to where MacKenzie would have placed the bunkers if he had been designing for the modern golfer has to be made - although there is some of that.

As Ken Brown says in the article, you have to take account of how far the ball will be travelling in another 30 to 50 years and that is influenced by both technology and regulation – should the R&A be minded to take a stand. The great Mystic Meg, on her best form, would struggle to predict that, but professional expertise certainly gives the greatest chance of coming up with the best results.

I watched the last round of the Honda Classic last night and was delighted on two counts. One, it was great to see how well Rory McIlroy played the back nine – scrapping superbly - although, he was missing greens, never really looking out of control despite the intense pressure. He fully deserved his win, with the added bonus of reaching the top of the World Rankings. He might take some shifting.

Which brings me to my second reason, as the man, most likely to knock Rory off the perch, made a stunning return to form to tie for second two shots behind. Tiger Woods has been showing glimpses of his old form, but last night with a magnificent eight under 62 in less than perfect conditions, he demonstrated that he was well and truly back.

That Rory held off his charge so well makes his own achievement even more laudable but his old form, but last night with a magnificent eight under 62 in less than perfect conditions, he demonstrated that he was well and truly back.

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UNSEEN INNOVATION

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REGULARS

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BIGGA Member to Ride in Aid of Prostate Cancer Research

Berkeleywood Golf Club, Myles Wood, is to undertake the Wiggle Dragro Ride, an arduous 78 mile cycle ride, in Wales in aid of prostate cancer research.

“My goal is to make £500 and I’ve been building up my training steadily. It currently includes regular weekly rides ranging from 13km - 65km with varying speed and time targets dependant on distance, I am also utilising a roller mechanism so I can continue with training indoors on a day to day basis,” said Myles.

“During the coming weeks heading up to the ride I have scheduled a training programme, which will increase in intensity and distances leading up to the event date. I have also entered two other ‘sportive’ events, which will offer an ideal opportunity for me to accustom myself to this type of distance riding, having only started riding last year.”

Prostate Cancer is the most common form of male cancer. Treatment options and prognosis depend on the stage of the cancer, the patient’s age and general health.

With greater public awareness, early detection is on the rise and mortality rates are declining. Additionally, new advances in medical technology are enabling cancer patients to return to active and productive lives after their treatment.

For more information or to donate to Myles’ attempt visit: www.virginmoneygiving.com/MylesWoodWiggleDragroRide2012

Conference Update

BIGGA MIDLAND REGION CONFERENCE

AT FRILFORD HEATH GOLF CLUB – 29TH MARCH 2012

on CONSTRUCTION & WEATHER IT’S ECOLOGICALLY SOUND

Further details...

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New Administrator for RIPTA Register

At their recent meeting in Harrogate, RIPTA (The Register of Independent Professional Turfgrass Agronomists) elected Jeff Perra as the new Administrator of the Register.

Jeff retired from STRI two years ago after being a consultant agronomist for 43 years. He was one of the founder members of RIPTA and has been Administrator of the Register in the past.

“Now that I have more spare time in my retirement, I hope that some of this time can be given to promoting and developing RIPTA both nationally and internationally,” said Jeff.

The Register was formed in 2002 to provide a source of agronomic consultancy of the highest standard and was widely welcomed in the sports turf industry. Many Sports Governing Bodies, Funding organisations, as well those involved in sports turf management, now refer to RIPTA as their source of agronomic expertise.

Consultants on the Register:

• Must hold a recognised first degree or MSc in plant or earth science.
• Consultant’s recent experience must include at least four years post-graduate experience as a full-time, independent turfgrass agronomist.
• Consultant’s must have no association or understanding however informal with any commercial organisation that could influence his or her independence.
• Consultant’s or their employer must have and maintain insurance including Professional Indemnity insurance that satisfies the requirements of the Register Administrator.

For further information about RIPTA visit www.RIPTA.co.uk

Please email scott@bigga.co.uk with your news items
BIGGA Member to Ride in Aid of Prostate Cancer Research

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Thirteen delegates from across the UK took and successfully passed the newly introduced BASBH Foundation Award (Amenity Horticulture) Course during HTMIE. The three day course and exam were sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, with support from Everris and Syngenta.

The training was held as part of the Continue to Learn education programme that ran alongside the Exhibition. Dr Ruth Mann from STRI ran the three day training course covering all areas of product management, including application, seed, disease and pest identification and biology and the need for protecting the environment.

The delegites where: Chris Drewry; Paul Cupsey; Alex Hawken; Craig Earnshaw; Ben Adkins; Jim Brown; Angus Macleod; David Lovejoy; Rob Worcester; Angus Fraser; Ian Pullan, Nicola Coupar-Marsh and Andy Baker.

New Administrator for RIPTA Register

At their recent meeting in Harrogate, RIPTA (The Register of Independent Professional Turfgrass Agronomists) elected Jeff Perris as the new Administrator of the Register.

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• The Consultants must have no association or understanding however informal with any commercial organisation that could influence him or her independence.
• Consultants or their employer must have and maintain insurance including Professional Indemnity insurance that satisfies the requirements of the Register Administrator.
• Contractors’ other business activities will not conflict with their ability to provide advice and Consultants with other business interests need to show the major part of the income derived from turf consultancy.
• Contractors or their employer must have and observe a written Code of Ethics.

For further information about RIPTA visit: www.ripta.co.uk
Early last year I was invited to officiate as a Citing Commissioner at the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.

It took me about five seconds to respond and say that I was prepared to go providing I could get time off work! So I was very grateful to the BIGGA Board for allowing me to take nearly two months unpaid leave to enable me to participate.

On Sunday, September 4, I took the 24-hour flight to Auckland with Air New Zealand and landed in the early hours of Tuesday morning, September 6.

My qualifications for undertaking this task are that many years ago I played international rugby for England in the Second Row and am reckoned to know a bit about international rugby for England that many years ago I played.

On arrival on September 6, 2011 we wasted no time in acclimatising. That afternoon we met with the Match Commissioners who were going to be our eyes, ears and voices at the many venues around New Zealand, and the Judicial Officers who were to chair the disciplinary hearings resulting from a sending off or a citing by the CC. We also received our allocation of matches; one CC per match. I was allocated nine matches and was to be the CC for the first match New Zealand vs Tongas at Eden Park, the venue for many matches during the RWC Tournament and all were upbred.

I had one citing and had a number of near misses; I had to cite the Italian hooker for 10 minutes minor foul play; he was banned for 15 weeks.

During my stay in Auckland I had the opportunity to visit Eden Park on many occasions, one of which enabled me to meet Mark Perham, the Head Groundsman. Mark had previously been a golf greenkeeper at golf clubs in Timaru in the South Island. He gave me a tour of the Stadium and explained how it was used for test venues for both rugby and cricket. For cricket, what happens is that the lower stand tiers are mechanically withdrawn until the playing area becomes oval shaped. They then drop a couch grass playing strip into a metal well in the centre of the ground, which is playable for six to eight days, and is a good enough surface for test and provincial matches. Eden Park is the only stadium in the world to host two Rugby World Cup finals; New Zealand won the World Cup in 1987 when they defeated France, repeating the feat in 2011. The Eden Park area of Auckland has been in use as a sports venue for nearly 110 years, being first the home to Auckland cricket from 1910 and then Auckland rugby from 1925.

We had more spare time during October after the pool matches had been finished, which gave us many opportunities to see the magnificent scenery New Zealand has to offer. The local New Zealanders were great hosts and I don’t think anyone begrudged them their narrow victory over France in the final. Once again, my thanks are extended to the BIGGA Board of Directors for allowing me the time to participate in this wonderful event.

P J Larter

Editor’s note

Rufford is committed to a range of specialist bunker sands that offer a number of key benefits including:

• good drainage and low crusting potential
• optimum particle size distribution to minimise ball bounce or plugging
• high purity, ensuring colour stability and a hard-wearing product
• can be ameliorated with your existing bunker sands in most cases
• nationwide availability

For further information please call our Customer Service Team on 01270 752 700 or email us at sales@rufford.com

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My qualifications for undertaking this task are that many years ago I played international rugby for England in the Second Row and am reckoned to know a bit about foul play! I have also been carrying out citing duties for the past 11 years in the Aviva Premiership, the European Rugby Cup, the 6 Nations Championship and also at the Rugby Cup, the 6 Nations Premiership, the European Challenge Cup and the 6 Nations Championship.

On arrival on September 6 2011 we wasted no time in acclimatising. That afternoon we met with the Match Commissioners who were going to be our eyes, ears and voices at the many venues around New Zealand, and the Judicial Officers who were to chair the disciplinary hearings resulting from a sending off or a citing by the CC. We also received our allocation of matches; one CC per match. I was allocated nine matches and was to be the CC for the first match New Zealand vs Tonga at Eden Park, the venue for many matches including the semi-finals, the 3rd place play-off and the RWC Final. I ended up with 13 citings in the 2011 RWC Tournament and all were upheld.

I had one citing and had a number of near misses; I had to cite the Italian hooker who I thought warranted sending off because he was playing at normal speed, slow-motion, super-slow motion and freeze frame by frame. If a citing was required, we had to prepare a detailed report and send it together with DVD evidence to the RWC Disciplinary Officer, when a hearing would be convened. Players had to travel to Auckland for hearings and, if found guilty, would usually be banned from playing for a period of time depending on the seriousness of the offence. In total there were 13 citings in the 2011 RWC Tournament and all were upheld.

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P Larter

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BARENBURG APPOINT NEW R&D MANAGER

Barenburg has appointed Dr. David Greenkeepers as its new Research and Development Manager. The appointment follows the departure of Jayne Leyland, who has left for pastures new after 13 years with the Bury St Edmunds business. Boasting a Master's degree in Environmental Biology from St Andrews University and a PhD in Plant Sciences in Scotland, David has strong technical and practical knowledge across golf, sports and amenity applications.

Jayne contributed a great deal to the club and will be sorely missed—I'd like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her the very best for the future.

This last month since BTME at Harrogate has been very busy at work and in my duties to BIGGA. A nice dry spring has allowed us to progress well with the continued improvements at Elmwood Golf Course, building new bunkers, at our 18th green and, landscaping areas around our entrance way. Students have been heavily involved at all levels, learning the importance of all aspects, eg. planning, resources, effective execution, evaluation, and communication. Preparing the course for another season is also top of the agenda.

The economic climate has brought about the latest challenge we face, and this has led to a greater understanding that golf must be sustainable in the true sense of the word. This is a vitally important area in which we can all learn from one another, and will be at the forefront of collaborations we seek.

The future of the game of golf depends on growing the game, in a way that it is recognised as a responsible part of the community. Golf can be a leader in sustainable sport and business, universally valued for good environmental and social contributions.

Chairman’s Word

National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, gives his thoughts for the month

Meeting the challenges

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