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Take the Jacobsen Eclipse 322, a bristling with innovative features; it’s designed to overcome all challenges.

What a challenge for BIGGA members the last few weeks have been; an amazing early spring that raised golfer expectations was swiftly followed by drought orders, golf courses being labelled ‘gardens’ and then torrential rain seemingly throughout April!

One thing is for certain, our weather cycles are no keener reliable and that means that golf clubs need to take steps to ensure they have access to essential resources, particularly water for irrigation, in future years.

As this edition of Greenkeeper International goes to print a softening of the water authorities views on golf course irrigation is emerging which may mean that golf clubs that rely on mains water for their irrigation will be allowed to do so.

It is clear however that the golf industry needs to do more to convince the powers that be that we are responsible users of water and that there is a genuine commercial need to keep grass healthy. In this magazine we focus on the chance to work with a former British Lion and Northampton Saints legend has been a Regional administrator and latterly has had the tough task of managing both the Northern and Midland Regions. He has done a great job and been extremely popular with members and trade alike. On a personal note to have the privilege of being involved in this historic event.

This month witnesses the 23rd and final PGA Championship to be played on a course managed by Chris Kennedy, this astonishing record is surely unparalleled in British, if not world golf, as is his total of 52 European Tour sanctioned events.

We are committed to a programme of improvements to this magazine and are determined to make it as relevant as possible to you the reader.

In the next few weeks we will be surveying all BIGGA members for their views on how we can achieve this. Please take a few minutes to give us your feedback when the survey arrives or feel free to get in contact with me, or any of the BIGGA team in the meantime.

Finally I’d like to thank Peter Larter for his superb service to the Association as he prepares for his well-earned retirement at the end of the month.

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Enjoy the read
Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO
FOR A LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE
ON YOUR COURSE, CALL +44 1473 270000
www.ransomesjacobsen.com

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WELCOME FROM BIGGA

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This month witnesses the 23rd and final PGA Championship to be played on a course managed by Chris Kennedy, this astonishing record is surely unparalleled in British, if not world golf, as is his total of 52 European Tour sanctioned events.

All of us here at BIGGA House wish Chris the best of luck with his final event and more importantly a well-earned retirement.

I know the BIGGA Support Team that will assist the excellent Winworth crew will enjoy the privilege of being involved in this historic event.
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Jim Cook kicks off a series of articles offering an insight into the preparations for the ISPS Handa PGA Seniors Championship at Slaley Hall

25 The revolving door on turf pesticide products
Dr Terry Mabbett continues his series of articles aimed at a varying readership. This month for Course Managers and Head Greenskeepers

30 Keeping heather on course
For West Hill Course Manager, Ben Edwards, heather regeneration is a passion and golf greenkeeping a way of life, as Mike Beardall reports

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A series of articles looking at the recent drought and hosepipe ban, plus a look at washdown solutions (pages 42-47)

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If you are looking to buy a sprayer, your initial choices may seem somewhat daunting. For most, however, a few key decisions can pretty much determine the main types of sprayer to consider, writes James de Havilland

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

HOSSEPIPE BAN FOR MILLIONS

We Need You!

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BIGGA’s Golf Photographic Competition is back for 2012, featuring the Top 12 Entries from the 2011 competition.

All entries need to be received by July 2012. The winner will receive £100 worth of equipment from the BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System (SMS).

For further information contact petelarter972@aol.com ortel: 01454 270850

Clive Osgood

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013

Many of life’s demands can work in the event of loss of grass cover. It would have on the business if you think even how your body works. how you think even how your body works, when you feel stressed it can affect everything you do, how you behave, in the Michigan State University Turfgrass Info. File (TGIF)

Copyright: Courtesy of Alan C.Birch

Photo


Woburn GC, showing the effects of drought on turf.
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**GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL**
The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.
Peter J Boyd Retires as BIGGA Regional Administrator for the Scottish Region

At the end of April 2012 I retire from the role of Regional Administrator for the Scottish Region.

In September 1997 Elliott Small re-located his position when I was fortunate enough to be successful in my application for employment with BIGGA. Elliott and Edna Small were extremely helpful as I was settling into the job. The handover period made it much easier for me and I thank them for that.

During my 14 plus years I have had the pleasure of getting to know many fine folks in the greenkeeping industry. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Association and the best parts, without a doubt, was meeting you, the members, as I travelled around Scotland.

Working at the Open and our own National Tournament always gave me the opportunity to meet members from other parts of the UK and abroad. I would especially like to thank the Scottish Chairmen, past and present for their encouragement and support. I worked closely with the Section Committees and want to acknowledge that their role is vitally important.

I value their service to the Association and thank them for their guidance and help during my tenure. At the Scottish Conference this year I was presented with gifts from the Scottish Regions to mark my retiring, I was honoured and delighted to accept them from Stuart Taylor, Chairman.

The Patrons and Trade in Scotland are very encouraging towards the Association and I would also wish to express my gratitude to them for their support, not only practical and financial to the Scottish Region, but to me personally.

The Scottish Regional Administrator does not work in isolation but has the backing of the team at headquarters. I thank them for their time and talents that they have been willing to share.

Although I will miss the daily routine and contact with you, I now go off to a life of leisure, golf and mail whisky as well as to do all my wife has for me. I wish each and every one of you success for the future.

Best Wishes
Peter J Boyd

BIGGA Scottish National Tournament at Ratho Park

By Courtesy of the Captain and Committee of Ratho Park, the BIGGA Scottish National Tournament will be held on Wednesday 20 June 2012. Entry Fee is £25, Apprentice fee is £12 which includes coffee/tea, fish and chip lunch, plus an evening meal and sweep and prizes. Please send all entries with remittance to Rachael Cuth, Leith & District BIGGA, 11 Kent House, Leith Walk, Edinburgh, EH6 6RF. Cheques made payable to BIGGA HQ.

BIGGA Member Stan Wins iPod

Congratulations to Stan Shakespeare, Head Greenkeeper at Durham City Golf Course, who filled in Sheltun S3DH’s greens drainage questionnaire and won himself an iPod.

Shefikona had a great response to the questionnaire, Mick Claxton, General Manager at Shefikona said: “We have had some really useful feedback back, which will be used for research and development.”

Stan has been at the Durham club for 28 years and is pleased to be part of their 125th birthday celebrations which are taking place this year and include an anniversary golf competition in August.

Durham City Golf Club has been at the forefront of supporting junior golf for many years and has close ties to the local schools and community.

Well done Stan!

GET INTO GOLF GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

Get Into Golf (the national campaign to grow the game) got down to business when it teed off a taster day in the heart of London’s Canary Wharf.

Businessmen in sharp suits and ties joined tourists and shoppers to take on a putting challenge, or to have a quick lesson with a PGA professional.

The Get Into Golf event, featuring brightly coloured inflatable nets and a putting challenge, was a good idea to get people swinging and thinking about golf.” said Kamal.

The event attracted all ages, from tiny tots to an 85-year-old enthusiast. Members of the public were tempted into the nets and playing experience at North Foreland.

“Creating a vibrant environment and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem.”

The scheme is aimed at creating bee-friendly habitats for bumblebees and other bee species. We have implemented the project into our ecology and environment plan for the site.”

The Operation Pollinator initiative and our work with the Kent Wildlife Trust has generated great enthusiasm and interest among players and visitors to the club.

“Creating a vibrant environment and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem.”

The Red Mason bee is one that the North Foreland team at North Foreland, which is aiming to attract really adds to the ecosystem.

Father-of-two Mr McGrath said: “We have had some really good feedback back, which will be used for research and development.”

The One-day event officially launched the England Golf Partnership (EGP), which brings together the amateur governing body, England Golf, and the Professional Golfers’ Association to grow the game with the support of the Golf Foundation and Sport England.

“The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem.”

The event was a great way to raise awareness,” said John. Visitors to the event were given details of the GetIntoGolf website, www.gettingtgolf.org, which features taster and coaching opportunities across the country.

A Nice Place to Bee

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To the Scottish Region, but to me You mark my retiring. I was honoured to know many fine folk in the greenkeeping industry. I have to thank the members, as I travelled around Scotland. Working at the Open and our own National Tournament also gave me the opportunity to meet members from other parts of the UK and abroad.

I would especially like to thank the Scottish Chairmen, past and present for their encouragement and support. I worked closely with the Region Committees and want to acknowledge that their role is vitally important.

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Although I will miss the daily routine and contact with you, I now go off to a life of leisure, golf and mail whisky as well as the 70. Do let my wife has for me. I wish each and every one of you success for the future.

Best Wishes
Peter J Boyd

BIGGA Scottish National Tournament at Ratho Park

By courtesy of the Captain and Committee of Ratho Park, the BIGGA Scottish National Tournament will be held on Wednesday 26 June 2012. Entry Fee is £55, Appetisers £8 1/2 each, food law and a la carte, entry is limited and sweep and prizes. Please send all entries with remittance to Rachael Cuth, Learning & Development, BIGGA House, BIGGA Association, Westbridge, York YO11 1DF by 7 June 2012. Cheques made payable to BIGGA HQ.

BIGGA Member Stan Wins iPod

Congratulations to Stan Shuttleworth, Head Greenkeeper at Durham City Golf Course, who filled in Shelton SDS’s greens drainage questionnaire and won himself an iPod.

Sheflens had a great response to the questionnaire. Mick Claxton, General Manager at Sheltons said: “We have been doing some really useful information back, which will be used in our research and development.”

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“Very well done Stan!”

GET INTO GOLF GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

Get Into Golf (the national campaign to grow the game) got down to business when it teed off a taste a day in the heart of London’s Canary Wharf.

Businessmen in sharp suits and ties joined tourists and shoppers to take on a putting challenge, or to have a quick lesson with a PGA professional.

The Get Into Golf event, featuring brightly coloured inflatable nets into which, a green, proved a huge draw to passers-by who frequently quipped to take a stab at golf.

The one-day event officially launched the England Golf Partnership’s campaign to inspire new golfers and support its plan to make England the world’s leading golf nation by 2020. “It’s great,” said businessman Anthony Doberty, who devoted a chunk of his lunch break to a refresher golf lesson. His colleague and regular golfer, Ross McAteer, looked on approvingly. “This is a really good idea to get people swinging a club,” he said.

Another businessman, Nathaniel Conn, was also tempted into the nets and said “this is great fun and it’s brilliant to have it here. I’d like to think golf is a much more accessible sport than it was 20 years ago.”

Birmingham teachers Kiren Bana and Kamal Nijjar both thought golf was accessible sport than it was 20 years ago.”

The event attracted all ages, and volunteers who staffed the stand encouraged them, and PGA professionals John McCartney and Paul McNulty offered them taste lessons from the Golf Lab indoor academy in Canary Wharf.

“This is a brilliant way to raise awareness,” said John.

Visitors to the event were given details of the Get Into Golf website, www.gingolf.co.uk, which features taster and coaching opportunities across the country.

A Nice Place to Bee

Dan McGrath MG, Course Manager at North Foreland Golf Club, was this month featured in his local newspaper, The Kent Gazette, as the club joins Rengea’s Operation Pollinator, a national scheme aimed at creating habitats for insects, such as bees, an out-of-play parts of courses.

“The hope is to boost the declining bee population and develop sustainable ecological resources.

Dan, heading up an eight-strong greenkeeping team, explains how it started back in September, when two out-of-play areas on the course were oversown with wildflowers.

“This provides pollen and nectar sources for bumblebees and other bee species. We have implemented the project into our ecology and environment plan for the site.”

The Operation Pollinator initiative and our work with the Kent Wildlife Trust has generated great enthusiasm and interest among players and volunteers to the club.

“Creating a vibrant environment and the ecology that we are aiming to attract really adds to the overall playing experience at North Foreland.”

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfer with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem.

TORO: THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR NATIONAL GOLF CENTRE

It’s all smiles at The National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa as they renew their five-year exclusive deal with Toro and its distributor Lea UK.

Having used Toro machinery since 1997, Course Manager Sam Rothwell, Director of Golf Operations Richard Latham and Finance Director Craig Waggstaff, all endorsed the choice, dotted line for a further five years with the market-leading turf maintenance machinery manufacturer.

Commenting on the signing, Sam says: “We stick with Toro because we believe it’s the best performing machinery available. We have a nine-year rolling machinery replacement programme, and find the machines really hold their value and make us a lot of money back at the end of that period. We also have a fantastic dealer in Chris Sellicks Groundcare, I can’t speak of them highly enough.”

The latest machines to arrive at the home of English golf in Lincolnshire are two new Workman MDX-D mail delivery diesel utility vehicles, a Rebuildmaster 5410-D flail mower and a Groundsmaster 4300-D rough mower. Sam is also looking forward to the installation of a brand new Toro irrigation system commencing later this year.

IN BRIEF

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In The Hole:

Mr McGrath, 35, said: “Maybe we will have our own honey from the sites.”

Thanet Road Runners: All the trustees of the Thanet Road Runners have been re-elected as chairman. Dennis Franklin, Joanna Kirk and Former press officer Kate harvest Mon, Aline, York YO11 1DF by 7 June 2012. Cheques made payable to BIGGA HQ.

IN BRIEF

Get Into Golf campaign to grow the game rallied round to take the game on golf courses nationwide.

They have been trying to get it up and running since last September by choosing key courses and overseeding them with grass sources for bumblebees and other bee species.

“We are the only one in east Kent,” according to Mr McGrath, 35, who said: “It adds to the overall environment and the ecology that we are aiming to attract really adds to the overall playing experience at North Foreland.”

The club is famed for its fabulous sea views from every hole, and now we are looking to provide golfers with even more interest and attractions, as well as doing our bit to reverse the plight of the bumblebee and help other pollinating insects that are vital for a healthy ecosystem.

The club meets four times a year: outside the Asda store on Thanet Road between 9am and 3pm on Saturday, April 21.

For more information, visit the club’s website, www.thanetroadrunners.co.uk, which features taster and coaching opportunities across the country.

The event attracted all ages, and volunteers who staffed the stand encouraged them, and PGA professionals John McCartney and Paul McNulty offered them taste lessons from the Golf Lab indoor academy in Canary Wharf.

“This is a brilliant way to raise awareness,” said John.

Visitors to the event were given details of the Get Into Golf website, www.gingolf.co.uk, which features taster and coaching opportunities across the country.

The Get Into Golf campaign is organised by the England Golf Partnership (BEEG), which brings together the amateur governing bodies, England Golf, and the Professional Golfers’ Association to grow the game with the support of the Golf Foundation and Sport England.
PGA Catalunya Resort Seals Deal with RJ

Recently voted the No 1 golf course in Spain, The PGA Catalunya Resort, has signed a five-year preferred supplier agreement with Ransomes Jacobsen.

Pictured above is Rupert Price, Sales Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, Miguel Girbes, Golf Director at PGA Catalunya Resort, added: “We strive continually to enhance the golfing experience for both elite players and visitors on golfing breaks and have recently upgraded our practice facilities which will make a visit to PGA Catalunya Resort even more memorable. We particularly want PGA Catalunya Resort to become the preferred winter training camp for golf federations and clubs around Europe and the signing of this strategic partnership with Ransomes Jacobsen will be a contributory factor to help us achieve this goal.”

Over the next five years, the entire fleet will become orange as the previous equipment is replaced with a range of modern turf maintenance products manufactured in Chichester, North Carolina and at the company’s European manufacturing base in Ipswich, Suffolk.

Commenting on the signing of the agreement, David Batalle, Head Greenkeeper responsible for the two 18-hole courses, the Stadium and the Tour said, “Our current fleet is seven years old and as Spain’s number one golf experience, course presentation is highly important to us. The quality of cut we get from the 405 played a significant role in determining our choice of supplier agreement with Ransomes Jacobsen. Over 50 players enjoyed the Central Section outing on the Craighead Course at Crail on 17th April courtesy of Crail Golfing Society.

The course was prepared in fantastic condition by Bob Meikle and his staff despite the atrocious overnight weather and it was great to see how it has matured and developed over the past 14 years.

Attending the outing were Richard Clifford and David Roy, Captain and Manager of Crail Golf Society respectively along with BIGGA Membership and a member of BIGGA, The other team members may be chosen from the Golf Club Secretary or Manager, Club Captain or Vice-Captain, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Captain, Secretary or Assistant Manager when a team is chosen from outside the club. The team members must be a member of the club from which the team is chosen.

Successor to John Philp Announced

Carnoustie Golf Links Chair- man Gordon Wilson, reports that following an interview process that saw many strong candidates at the interviewing table he is absolutely delighted to announce that Sandy Reid has been appointed successor to John Philp as Links Superintendent for Carnoustie Golf Links.

Sandy (53), who is married to Catherine and has a 1 year old daughter Harriet, hails originally from Blair Athol.

After graduating from Elmbank College in Fife he worked at Letham Grange and later joined the construction of Gleneagles and then in 1994 and later being appointed Course Manager. He subsequently worked at Barcelona Golf Club and Club de Golf Pratdela before taking up his position at PGA Golf Catalunya.
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Commenting on the signing of the agreement, David Bataller, Head Greenkeeper responsible for the two 18-hole courses, the Stadium and the Tour said, “Our current fleet is seven years old and as Spain’s number one golf experience, course presentation is highly important to us. The quality of cut we get from the 405 played a significant role in determining our choice of equipment. We mow the fairways every day as you would expect from a club of our standing and the finish it’s producing is superb.”

“I’ve been impressed with the level of service we’ve received from Ransomes-Jacobsen’s Spanish distributor, Green Mowers of Burgos, following the purchase of the Fairway 405 and this was also a contributory factor in acquiring the club in 2001. The club’s previous system, which was 30 years old, struggled to cope in the exceptionally dry summer of 2010, prompting the directors’ decision to replace it.”

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Attending the outing were Richard Clifford and David Roy, Captain and Manager of Crail Golfing Society respectively along with BIGGA National Chairman, Andy Mellon, Scottish Chairman Stuart Taylor, CEO Jim Croston, Head of Membership Tracey Maddison and Regional Administrator Peter Boyd, in one of his last tasks before his retirement.

Our thanks go to Crail Golfing Society and all their staff along with the Trade who always support the section so well on the day. For results in full: www.biggaeventregistration.org.uk

Central Section Spring Outing

Over 50 players enjoyed the Central Section outing on the Craighead Course at Crail on 17th April courtesy of Crail Golfing Society.

The course was prepared in fantastic condition by Bob Meikle and his staff despite the glorious overnight weather and it was great to see how it has matured and developed over the past 14 years.

Attending the outing were Richard Clifford and David Roy, Captain and Manager of Crail Golfing Society respectively along with BIGGA National Chairman, Andy Mellon, Scottish Chairman Stuart Taylor, CEO Jim Croston, Head of Membership Tracey Maddison and Regional Administrator Peter Boyd, in one of his last tasks before his retirement.

Our thanks go to Crail Golfing Society and all their staff along with the Trade who always support the section so well on the day. For results in full: www.biggaeventregistration.org.uk

Successor to John Philip Announced

Carnoustie Golf Links Chairman Gordon Wilson, reports that following an interview process that saw many strong candidates at the interviewing table he is absolutely delighted to announce that Sandy Reid has been appointed successor to John Philip as Links Superintendent for Carnoustie Golf Links.

Sandy (53), who is married to Catherine and has a 1 year old daughter Harriet, hails originally from Blair Atholl.

After graduating from Elmwood College in Fife he worked at Letham Grange and later at Linton Hall before moving to Carnoustie where he has spent the last 7 years as Championship Course Head Greenkeeper. A keen golfer and cuddle, last year his curling team were beaten finalists in the Scottish Championships, Sandy said that “It is an honour to be following on from John and I will do my best to ensure that the high standards set at Carnoustie continue.”

“I’m looking forward to working with a fantastic team and meeting all future challenges.”

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Following tournaments in 2008 and 2010, JSM are once again organising a one day five-a-side football tournament to be held on 23rd May 2012. Entry is open to all greenkeeping and grounds care staff working for organisations located in the company’s general trading area of Kent, Sussex, Surrey, South London and East Berkshire. The tournament will take the form of 10 minute matches played in four pools, which will generate the qualifiers for the knock out stages. Managing Director, David Cole, says: “We have enjoyed two great events with Sunningdale GC winning the first on penalties in 2008, and then Pyrford Golf Club (right) coming top of a very keenly fought competition in 2010. The positive feedback from past participants and the continued support of JSM’s supplier partners means this bi-annual event is becoming a firm favourite. Smaller organisations are encouraged to group together with others to make up a team. The day will feature a complimentary barbecue to take place immediately following the trophy and medal presentations. Entries must be in by early May 4th and places will be limited to keep to the four pool format and time frame intact. More details and entry forms are available from JSM Limited, 0845 026 0061.

JSM Challenge Cup: The Quest for Glory

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ROYAL NORTH DEVON THROUGH TO SLALEY HALL

Royal North Devon Golf Club at Westward Ho! in Devon has won the first regional qualifying tournament of the 2012 John Deere Team Championship golf competition, organised by south-west John Deere dealership Masons Kings. A total of 18 teams took part in the tournament, which went ahead at Boringdon Park Golf Club, Plympton, near Plymouth in Devon, despite a day of heavy April showers, with BIGGA’s regional administrator Jane Jones acting as the tournament’s official scorer.

“It wasn’t just the rain,” said organiser Roy Key of Masons Kings. “Boringdon Park is up on a hill and the wind across the course made it quite a challenging day.” Royal North Devon’s net score of 65 in the modified scramble event secures them a place in the next round. St Austell finished on 64 but knew their team format prevented them from qualifying for the final.

The Royal North Devon team – made up of the club’s general manager Mark Evans, committee member Robert Fowler and head greenkeeper Neil Crawley – will be travelling to De Vere Slaley Hall in September to play on the championship Hunting course in the national tournament final, together with John Rowe, the dealership’s Cornwall depot manager who joins the team as the fourth member.

“The event was very well organized and we had a great day,” says Mark Evans, the club’s general manager. “The event was very well organized and we had a great day.”

The John Deere Team Championship celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2012, having started in the US in 1987. This is the sixth time the competition has been run in UK & Ireland since the first tournament in 2002, and around 30 regional dealer tournaments are taking place this year. Meanwhile, Appleby Golf Club recently took receipt of the new John Deere 8000E sit-on mower (right). “Turning on the tees without marking makes the job so much quicker,” said a delighted Steve Campbell, Course Manager. Here comes the rain...

Although the Drought Order is still in place in many counties, as we went to print, golf courses all over the nation suffered from torrential rain, and many became unplayable. Aldwark Manor GC, situated by the side of BIGGA HQ, proved a handy resource for these pics!