The John Deere HD200 SelectSpray is an upgraded version of the company’s 750-litre low profile sprayer first introduced in 2003. The HD200 can be spec’d with a choice of centrifugal or diaphragm pumps, manual or automatic rate controls and a range of boom options – the latter now come with electro-hydraulic boom lift and lower as standard. A common wiring harness is standard for all specifications, allowing the control system to be changed easily if required at a later date.

A CleanLoad chemical induction system is an option, the standard jet agitator ensuring the tank solution is mixed thoroughly. An integral tank wash system is also standard.

Designed as an attachment for John Deere’s established 24hp ProGator utility vehicle, the 757 litre HD200 can be easily and quickly removed without tools. An optional storage stand incorporates wheels so that the demounted sprayer can be moved around in a shed for storage and wheeled out for reattaching. The HD200 utilises the whole of the ProGator’s load space to provide a low centre of gravity for stability. The design also provides the operator with good visibility.

All booms options have standard triple nozzle bodies and are offered in 5.5m or three-way folding 4.6/6.4m sizes. A bi-directional safety breakaway system is standard.

The boom operates at up to 50cm above ground level and at ground speeds of up to 16km/hr. Individual boom sections can be selected as required, and boom height can be adjusted manually if necessary. The sprayer also comes as standard with a throttling valve to deliver constant pressure no matter how many boom sections are operating at any one time.

The level of break back protection and contour following offered by booms varies. Wheels are designed to push the boom up if the terrain alters, but not run on the ground. Booms that break back in reverse as well as direction of travel help prevent damage when backing up to banks or other obstacles.

John Deere turf sprayer benefits from recent updates

Gambetti UK continues to hone its products to match the specific needs of golf courses. As an example, it has improved the Windfoil boom for tighter ground contour hugging on both positive and negative contours, made it height adjustable to cope with greens, fairways and semi rough and also added more clearance around the nozzles to avoid run off from the covers. Gambetti also offers BRAVO 180 sprayer rate controllers customised for use with golf course sprayers. The operator can select up to 5 different spray rates at the touch of only 2 buttons. The display shows application rate and speed.

Introducing the MultiPro 5800-D, a technically advanced dedicated sprayer, new from Toro. Designed to deliver superior spray accuracy and precision, the MultiPro 5800-D features an innovative new Pro Control XP console that responds instantly to ensure the correct spray rate is applied from start to finish, pass after pass. The sprayer’s speedy response time is further enhanced with an exclusive six-diaphragm pump, an industry first. This unique pump has twice the flow to satisfy the highest of spray rates, together with ‘aggressive agitation’ for optimum mixing of the 300 gallon (1,136 litre) tank’s contents. The 5800-D also features a generous 18 ft spraying boom, with a Drift Reduction Shroud, and the new Ultra Sonic Boom Levelling System. The new MultiPro 5800-D sprayer from Toro, simply the best performing turf sprayer on the market!

Call 01480 226800 or visit www.toro.com
All the latest news from your section

Scotland

Northern Region

Northern

I should start this article by reporting our spring meeting at the Glen Golf Club, but as you all know, the weather beat us with rain, snow and cold and is to blame for the postponement.

Our secretary Mr Ferguson made the rescheduled date for Tuesday 24 April, so I hope all who are due to play, can make this date, plus more if possible?

The section committee met last Tuesday to discuss business and there are several ideas that should interest our membership, both educationally and socially, thanks to the guys for getting that together for discussion.

As a mark of the closure of the 2013 season, the May Round will be the last hole to have been opened on the 4 April, thankfully all wardens across for good weather, and it has been there yet and it will be very good to walk a round.

I will have all the results from the spring outing at Royal Aberddeen Golf Club in the next issue.

Also it was good to hear that the Scottish Open has secured its future short term, which is good for the game in Scotland, let’s hope it can stay in the North Scotland.

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That’s all for now but feel free to get in touch with me if you have any news because it’s difficult sometimes to get enough in the magazine report some months, you can get in touch with me via my mobile or the Facebook page, which is BIGGA North Section, and hopefully we can get more people liking BIGGA Scotland.

That’s it for this month, Jimmy Richardson

North East

What do we have in store for this month’s report, I’m afraid not very much, it’s better to have some than none at all, I like to try and have some in no matter how small.

Firstly, let’s welcome the following new members to the section, those being Jack Maddison of Arct Golf Hall, Gary Morse of Close House and the return of Steve Cram of Slaley Hall.

We are slowly getting more members from Close House, but I thought I would have had more since I had dropped several membership forms off as I had heard that about six were wanting to join, all well worth the effort, I have no idea why?

I am looking forward to the Barenrun open day at Castle Stuart Golf Links as I have not been there yet and it will be very good to walk a round.

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North West

Hi all. Firstly let me welcome a new starter at Dayshane GC, Peter Hartley has started an apprenticeship under the guidance of Nick Marner the Head Greenkeeper. So good look Peter and I hope all goes well with your chosen career.

We have literally had all weathers in March from top to bottom of temp’s of 23c to -1c this morning on the 4 April, thankfully all that we could have wasn’t the best until next month.

Unfortunately all three of them forgot who their boss was so I was bumped and nudged into fifth place, an issue that may be raised at their next appraisal.

Stuart Crawford

Gordon Moir

North East

I am writing this report at the beginning of April there are several inches of snow lying on the ground, which is a shock to the system especially as the last week of March was breaking records for how bit it was, but that is mother-nature for you.

There is some movement in the sectioning world again, Chris Wilson has left Hunty Golf Club for Turfhill Golf Club to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Michael Mcleod has joined Hunty Golf Club after previously working at Tspy Bay Golf Club, so I wish them both every success in their new jobs, and also my old workmate Steve Still of Newmaragh Golf Club is leaving to start up his own business and I wish him every success.

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Please email your notes to Notes we had to change the format your email address and forgot wrongly or you have changed cally, maybe we have typed it in then check the website where McKie or me on a regular basis, ing emails from either Gordon get the information from our be sent out as soon as we have we are trying to fix up evening from Penn State are visiting in Canada and John Kaminski provide.

If you haven’t been receiv- Eric Lyons from Guelph Uni get in touch with me if you have ing on the 4 April, thankfully all the details are very sketchy in an accident going to his work, who’s name I don’t know yet, Remember to text me the rel- this year and our congratula- ing to join, ah well let’s hope they c We had a good turnout for our booked plenty of sunshine this east.

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Scotland

Central

We had a good turnout for our seminar on 21 March to hear James Cobb tell us about the species of trees he has planted at Crail GC and the habitat they provide.

We have potentially another couple of seminars lined up for the summer.

Eric Lyne from Guelph Uni in Canada and John Kaminski from Penn State are visiting in June and July respectively and we are trying to fix up evening presentations for them.

Information will appear on the website and an email will be sent out as soon as we have more details. Members can always get the information from our Facebook page.

If you haven’t been receiving emails from either Gordon McKie or me on a regular basis, then check the website where we will have a list of these names and you can contact us.

We will update this periodically, maybe we have typed it in wrongly or you have changed your email address and forgotten to notify BIGGA.

As I write this in early April, the winter weather is still a bit nippy at Crail, winter seems to have returned with a vengeance after the balmy March.

Twelve teams entered the pair’s competition this year so we had to change the format slightly.

The results will appear regularly on our website www.biggacentralsection.org

Gordon Moir

Northern Region

Northern

I should start this article by reporting our spring meeting at the Glen Golf Club, but as you all know, the weatherawl be with us, rain, snow and cold winds and is to blame for the postponement.

Our secretary Mr Ferguson made the re-scheduled date for Tuesday 24 April, so I hope all who are to play, can make this date, plus if more possible?

The section committee met last Tuesday to discuss business and there are several ideas that should interest our membership, both educationally and socially, thanks to the guys for getting that together for discussion.

Membership future dates for these proposals and give details so that you can plan well in advance.

Mr Philip Butler, our education member, is to be married this year and I wish them well and congratulations go to him and his finance.

Remember to text me the relevant details.

I heard of a greenkeeper, who’s name I don’t know yet, down in Kelso who was injured in an accident going to his work, so all the details are very sketchy at the moment.

We all wish him well and a speedy recovery. If anyone has any information regarding this incident please let me know.

So, are you all on the 24 April at the Glen Golf Club and bring your shorts and sun cream as I booked plenty of sunshine this time.

Stewart Crawford

s.crawford@dive-uk.co.uk

North East

What do we have in store for this months report, I’m afraid not very much, it’s better to have some than none at all, I like to try and give some in no matter how small.

Firstly, let’s welcome the following new members to the section, those being Jack Madisone, Russell Ross, Robert Sibbett and the return of Steve Cram of Blakley Golf.

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North Wales

What a late winter and early spring we faced, one of the hottest March’s on record followed by a reminder that winter hadn’t quite given by giving us snow and frost to start April off.

The spring tournament took place at the Vale of Llangollen golf club on 25 April, as always this columns goes to print before the actual day so a full write up will be in next months column.

Another great bloke who will also be missed. We will hopefully fill Adams position very shortly, but until then myself and John Watts will look after things.

Thank you Mr Guy for your emails...

That’s it for now folks, any news you are aware of, please let me know.

Andy Slingby

07750479667

and alangusfamily@virginmedia.com

Midland Region

Go Karting has traditionally been a very popular social event for the section and due to Andrew Humble and Toro’s generosity we have always been able to offer great deals for our section members. With this years event we offered two hours of racing plus fish and chips and a pint for just £20, an offer we felt was well valued. However the very poor response suggested otherwise and leaves future years for social events in a very questionable position.

Non golfing members of the section have always asked for non golfing events to be organised, yet when this happens there is little interest and sends a message to the committee that its efforts are pointless, perhaps spent concentrating on golf competitions where attendance is far better. Food for thought? Any comments on this are welcome to biggaeastmid@gmail.com

As I write this article the players are preparing to have their final practice round at The Masters, and members and golfers around the UK are preparing their comparative comments to general media. I do enjoy the questions and suggestions that the first major of the year brings.

Should I mention the...
Around The Green

of my kettle finger. Our sheds, time to see the status lashing sleet and rain against us I’m sure we’ll find a way than usual chance to gain a It’s a shame that fuel prices river levels are at 1976 levels, weather? Everyone else does. Ah...

Around The Green

thanks Andy. And Craig, once

plishments of education, at his... I note that Andy Cole thus afforded more time to actu-

a stone-age, but it greatly reduced a fancy word processor, which a spelling error forced re-writing! I

learning opportunity. I myself his H.N.C. with “A” grades at

We had record temperatures Andy greatly helped me, and for his continued support. The

T.H.White Grasscare. For your sponsored by our old friends

We now also have a hosepipe ban but it’s the... of years ago, and through Baileys of Norfolk supported the section as he did others in our Region. Entries for our first GolfDay at Blind Golf Club (11.00am, start, and dress code is smart/casual Wednesday 16 May, are now due, if you have not already done so. Entry forms to Antony Kirwan at Play Golf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO5 4AU or by email to antzy16@btinternet.com.

Our first golf day this year was had by all, and once again proved popular, and their first daughter Kacey, to Aran and Caron Crittenden and the longest drive was Kevin Morris.

My playing partners, Messrs Weston and Pennells, studied every green, admiring the fine grasses and excellent putting surfaces, but it was little help to us when we had to get that little ball in.

Derek Culiff was the running of yet another... by Clive Osgood. Annual event at Walton Heath was held at Stock Brook a couple of years ago, and through

The Essex Section would like to thank all of the above for their help with running our golf days this season that we run for the benefit of the section.

Just a reminder to all those scores collecting CPD credits, you need to have a minimum of 10 credits by the end of June 2012 to qualify.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper Sweep ‘n’ Fill brush, again an excellent and informative day for the whole of years ago, and through...

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Lobster and chips

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East of England

Here we are in May already, I’m sure it’s quite obvious where the year is going. As I write the Masters is in full swing on the TV, of course, with a lot of the golf being broadcast on HD into everyone’s homes just to make life easy for us all! But hey, at least with HD TV you can now find out that one bird is sitting on one of your plates! We also now have a hosepipe ban in place, cue the wettest spell of weather this year. Let’s see what the summer brings.

Once again it was good to see a good turnout from our Section members at Harrogate for our Annual Dinner at the Stray Fores Party. Our Annual Dinner and Ball changes this year as we also had a full house at the Stray Fores Party for all our Trade sponsors coming up in our events? Not mention the Essex Section Cocktail in sight.

Derbyshire

I would like to firstly congratulate Mr. C. Beet (C.M. at 07970 095264) who kindly sponsored our old friends the Hurlingham Club and Green Street, Upton Park, Essex on Thursday 24 May, tee off. Satellite Navigation: Set off. You can get your entry to Antony by post. Alternatively you can book a place by email to antz16@btinternet.com. If you wish to enter the Team Knockout this year, entries are FREE. All you have to do is get your entry in by 15th May when the draw will be made on the 16th May.

We are again being treated to a stroll around West Ham’s ground for a game of football. The match this year is against the Kent Section. Victory would be welcome and our Region. The Essex Section wishes to regenerate the heather is a lasting legacy to the club and its exceptional management. The Essex Section would once again be a lasting legacy to the club and its exceptional management. The Essex Section would like to thank all of the above companies for their invaluable support.

There is news soon to be announced of a One-day seminar at Walton Heath. The first will be sometime in the autumn. If demand is high we will run a second seminar in the early part of 2013.

We have three new sponsorship s this year; Toro, Farmura and Braintax Golf Services in the region.

As reported last month in this magazine we have lost a very well respected Greenkeeper in the person of Fred Farrell (Baileys of Norfolk). The Essex Section would like to express its sympathy to the family and work colleagues of John. He will be sadly missed. John lectured at very short notice at one of our seminars held at the Royal Cinque Ports in 5 years ago, and through Baileys of Norfolk supported the section as he did others in our Region.

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Around The Green

special thanks to Mark Day and Tacit for sponsoring the day and laying on an impressive array of prizes. We would also like to thank the catering staff for the sumptuous curry, including seconds, and subsequent pudding!

Thanks North Foreland! And thanks to...

Don’t forget that we are continuing on last year’s success of our Summer Mix Knockout Trophy so please put your name forward as soon as possible for what turns out to be such great fun last summer. See the website for details.

Finally, the big one! I learned yesterday that the Essex Sec. have challenged Kent’s first to a football match which shall be played in May at the August mecca of football, Upton Park! Obviously, Big Sam has been alerted to the fact that the cream of greenkeeping talent will be lovingly caressing the hallowed turf at the Boleyn Ground so far away from the presence of some scouts and possibly some Giri Guardes will be inevitable (possibly some Giri Guardes will be inevitable).

At this time of writing we are still in the early stages of assembling a squad so please feel free to mix up the rest of your society, even if you call yourself a part of it all and helping the community.

On another note I’m looking forward to being part of the Open support team again, this time at Royal Lytham, it’s hard to work, but great being there inside the ropes and rubbing shoulders with the best golfers in the world as well as getting to meet fellow greenkeepers from all over Europe.

Well enough about me!

The South Coast Spring comp at Doodl Morn GC is 3 weeks away.

This will be a rather sad day for all involved as we will see one of the last societies to ever play there as it closes its doors on May 16.

Hopefully we will have a good turnout to say goodbye to a lovely course and unique clubhouse.

A couple of dates for your diaries; please can we have good support.

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The following day, great organisation as usual, the annual affair between South Coast Greenkeepers vs Wessex Secretaries sponsored by Course Care is being held this year at Rushmore Park GC, please make yourself available if possible and let me know or Tony know.

Those of you that have seen Crane Valley’s head greenkeeper Mark Gordon recently block 1 discovered we had the grand total of 2m.

Wow, wettest night for 8 weeks, who knows by the time you’re reading this we could be praying for sunshine...

Over the last two weeks we have been kind to us all along this part of the south coast, in an average winter this is not unheard of. To close with Brokenhurst being on a typical clay soil structure, but with us losing just 4 days, 2 of them due to snow, the membership is happy, so that’s one less thing to worry about.

On a personal note I’m now a qualified retained fire-fighter at Brokenhurst fire station.

In my view away from managing the golf course, being on call for evenings/weekends when I can, I’m really enjoying being part of it all and helping the community.

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The ceremonial crushing took place in the clubhouse and aimed at raising as much money as possible for CLIC servie, which is a fantastic charity raising 20 days for fan help for children and young people with cancer, also their families, either in hospital or in the community.

Welcome to Mark who raised over £500 for this wonderful cause as well as raising awareness

A great day out at Knightrid Heath’s assistant greenkeeper Nick Young has also been in the news and was on the front cover of Carp Talk after catching the first 50lb carp of 2012 in Britain.

Mark landed the carp near Blashford and although very proud of his efforts is quick to tell about the one that got away!

Congratulations Mark.

That’s all from me for now, so good night and happy watering…

if you can!

Reign Glass
Tel 07779 370655
Home 01202 246590
Email southcoastsecretary@gmail.com

For more information on new members log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

South West

What crazy weather we have been having recently…

Record breaking temperatures for K.O.!”....

Then they forecast snow in April, what’s this all about.

Right away the dreams aren’t even this wild...I’m joking a side, it has been a great couple of weeks and I do hope that you have enjoyed them.

Many of you will remember the golf day that was arranged by T.H.

White last year, and I do believe that it was a great day thankyou enjoyed.

With this mind T.H.

White has decided to organise another day this year, being at Marlborough G.C. dates and times will be with you shortly I’m sure, look out for your invitation!

As I was driving around in one of the golf carts the other day, with another member of staff, I realised that he wasn’t smoking! Nothing unusual about that I hear you say, but this guy had made smoking his hobby over the years, but for the last 4-5 has battled through and to date not smoked a single “fag”.

I had found this pretty impressive from me thinking, I wonder what I could give up that could help me to improve my lifestyle, find it difficult to think about something edible up to now, wonder how difficult it would be to actually continue with this?

Chocolate, no way, I need that in my life! I’m going to go with takeaways, unhealthy food and being too lazy not to cook.

I’ll keep you all posted on how this goes.

In the meantime, why don’t you think about something that you can give up to improve your lifestyle, look for inspiration to, the before smoke, you may not love me and I’ve seen the improvements that has come from him giving up!

We would also like to thank our patronage partners for 2012, Farmos, Countryside, Headland, Eco-solve, TH White, Irtech Ltd, Aurovop, etc.

We also have a Face book page for the southwest section, one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don’t have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing facility you have at your finger tips.

See you all soon.

Pete Holmstrom

The Dual Master 3000iR integrates the dual functions of spin and relief grinding, returning cutting units to manufacturer’s specification.

Building on the technical foundations of the renowned Express Dual and Anglemaster system, the Dual Master incorporates auto-indexing relief to deliver the fastest, easiest and most accurate spin and relief grinding.

With rapid change from spin to relief or spin to spin mode in 60 seconds, the Dual Master 3000iR saves you time in the workshop and takes the grind out of sharpening.

See it in action at: www.bernhard.co.uk/dualmaster

The Dual Master 3000iR will be available early 2012
BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

- Alexander Wemyss, Central Section - Donald Ferguson, North Section
- Tony Millen, Edinburgh Section

Northern Region

- Ben Bain, North West Section
- John Pekez, North West Section
- Jack Crowbar, North East Section
- Ben Nield, North East Section

Midland Region

- Tony Holland, Midland Section
- Adam Jones, Midland Section
- Mike Shaw, Midland Section
- Kevin Pitt, North West Region
- David Smith, West Midlands Section

South East Region

- Jonathan Stidworthy, South East Region
- Andrew Tovey, South East Region

South West/South Wales Region

- Martin Watts, South West Section
- Kim Stanfield, South Coast Section

Northern Ireland

- Michael Leckie, Northern Ireland Section

Guernsey

- Tim Picker, Guernsey

For more information on new members log in to the Members Area of the BIGGA Website.

South Coast

As I was getting ready for work this morning I could hear the rare sound of lightning striking my kitchen window which brought a smile to my face.

Once up at the maintenance block I discovered we had the grand total of 2mm.

Wow, wettest night for 8 weeks, who knew by the time you’re reading this we could be praying for sunshine.

Over the weekend the future of our Summer Pains Knockout Trophy so please put your names forward as soon as possible for what turns out to be quite a fun afternoon.

See the website for details.

Finally, the big one! I learned yesterday that the Essex Section have challenged Kent’s finest to a football match which shall be played in May at the absolute mecca of football, Upton Park!

Obviously, Big Sam has been alerted to the fact that the cream of greenkeeping talent will be lovingly caressing the hallowed turf at the Boleyn Ground so round up the presence of some scouts and possibly a Grit Guard will be inevitable.

At this time of writing we are in the early stages of assembling a squad so please fill in or be part of it all and helping the community.

On another note I’m looking forward to being part of the Open support team again, this time at Royal Lytham, it’s hard to see the roar of the sea inside the ropes and rubbing shoulders with the best golfers in the world as well as getting to meet fellow greenkeepers from all over Europe.

Good enough about…

The South Coast Spring camp at Dromoland Manor GC is 3 weeks away.

This will be a rather sad day for all involved as we will all be part of the last societies to ever play there as it closes its doors on May 16th, being at Martin’s request.

Hopefully we will have a good turnout to say goodbye to a lovely course and unique clubhouse.

A couple of dates for your diaries; please can we have good support.

The Taylor Management Trophy rolls into Liphook GC on Wed 20 June, I’m sure Mr Murdock will be settling the golf course up to his excellent standards (with no worries of lack of irrigation this time).

The following day, great organisation as usual, the annual fixture between South Coast Greenkeepers vs Wessex Secretaries sponsored by Course Care is being held this year at Rushmore Park GC, please make yourself available if possible and let myself or Tony know.

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The ceremonial cleaning took place in the clubhouse and aimed at raising as much money as possible for CLIC serrge, which is a fantastic charity raising £200,000 a year for families and children and young people with cancer, also their families, either in hospital or in the community.

Welcome to Mark who raised over £500 for this wonderful cause as well as raising awareness of the Essex Section.

Knighton Heath’s assistant greenkeeper Nick Litherland has also been in the news and was on the front cover of Carp Talk after catching the first 50lb carp of 2012 in Britain.

Mark landed the carp near Blashford and although very proud of his efforts is quick to tell about the one that got away.

In the meantime, why don’t you think about something that you could give up that could help you to improve your lifestyle, look for inspiration to, the before smoker, just gave up and I’ve seen the improvements that has come from him giving up!!

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All we have also a Face book page for the southwest section, one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don’t have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing & sharing feature you have at your finger tips.

See also all of the below for inspiration to, the before smoker, just gave up and I’ve seen the improvements that has come from him giving up!!

West Kelston G.C Friday 14 June

Aberdovey G.C Friday 27 July

Summer Meeting: Creigau G.C Monday 27 June

Spring Meeting: Green Meadow G.C Wednesday 16 May 11.00PM Tee

Rigby Taylor Qualifier: St Mellons Thursday 14 June 9.00AM Tee

Summer Meeting: Creigau G.C Wednesday 11 July 1.00PM Tee

North V South Match: Aberdovey G.C Friday 27 July 2.00PM Tee

Rigby Taylor Final: Glynoith G.C Friday 14 September 9.30AM Tee

South Wales

Good morning South Wales, I must start by saying well done to our rugby team.

Our battle-hardened young winners in Dublin then London and finally beating the French on what was an outstanding pitch in Cardiff I can say I am very proud to be Welsh.

I have been enjoying these last few weeks, as many of you know my trading area heads across the border to our neighbour it is quite nice to cross over when we win!

With greenkeeping news fairly quiet overall the weather at the moment I will, unfortunately, have to tell you about the 6 & 5 golfing defeat that we could lose Big D inflicted on myself and Paul Hardman at Cardiff Golf.

Unfortunately the golf course was in fantastic condition, it’s just a shame we couldn’t keep the ball inside the playing areas instead of blowing them off into nearby brown gardens and just missing the odd car passing by!

This small match was just a warm up as the 4 of us have signed up to take part in the golf’s longest day challenge, which consists of 72 holes to be played in one day in aid of Cancer Research UK.

We will be asking for dona­tions and sponsors ‘throughout the year, so if you could spare a pound or two of any sort (or any Swedes for myself) that would be fantastic.

Spring Seminar, in association with Farmura Environmental:

Royal Porthcawl G.C Wednesday 19 April 9.00AM Meet

Spring Meeting: Green Meadow G.C Wednesday 16 May 11.00PM Tee

Rigby Taylor Qualifier: St Mellons Thursday 14 June 9.00AM Tee

Summer Meeting: Creigau G.C Wednesday 11 July 1.00PM Tee

Tees

• North V South Match: Acerdyce G.C Friday 27 July 2.00PM Tee
• Match Against The South West: Royal Porthcawl G.C Thursday 16 August 2.00PM Tee
• Rigby Taylor Final: Glynoith G.C Friday 14 September 9.30AM Tee
• Autumn AGM: Clyne G.C Thursday 11 October 11.00AM
• Autumn Meeting: Clyne G.C Thursday 11 October 12.30PM Tee

Winter Meeting: Southerndown G.C Friday 14 December 10.00AM Tee

Please contact Gareth Knight if you would like any further information on 07705988512

Kind Regards

Peter Holmstrom
There is little doubt that greenkeeper education and training is a must for any golf course to survive. Few can argue with this statement, however, what about the employer’s continual education and training?

The GTC continues to maintain its Quality Assured Scheme of Centres and Training Providers, where apprenticeships, workshops, seminars etc. are all available to ensure golf clubs can access greenkeeper education, training and qualifications.

Colleges and private training providers are all very much part of the continual education and training route to deliver quality education and training courses but they would all pay tribute to the increasing number of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers, many of whom have gone through the modern training system in recent years, and who now are willingly sharing their knowledge and experience with their staff and at local and national events.

There was much criticism when vocational training appeared in the Sports Turf industry, but I believe the campaign that commenced in the early nineties is really paying dividends now.

Formal and informal on the job training is now very much taken for granted at golf clubs and carried out to National Standards, which are freely accessible for all to see.

Take a bow all of those Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers who host in-house training sessions. Knowledge is so much more accessible and the suppliers, dealers and manufacturers are all there to support you with information, website links and attendance at seminars and workshops.

BISGA local section, regional and national have all played a major role in educating greenkeepers as well as the formal qualification route. Turf Clubs are appearing, all driven by passionate, knowledgeable greenkeepers and I am sure these will also grow from strength to strength.

So, if we are relatively content that greenkeeper education and training standards are in safe hands why don’t we also collectively look at how best we improve the Course Manager/ greenkeeper relationship with their employer?

Surely this relationship is crucial for the business to be successful?

We could add the Professional, Secretary, Manager, and Catering Manager into this debate as they surely are the Management team at any golf club?

All the various Professional bodies from the PGA, OCMA and BISGA in Britain, also have seen European Organisations in recent years, all striving to ensure their members and member bodies are well educated, trained and qualified to the highest standards.

But what about the employers?

We all would like to think all golf club employers will recruit professional staff to manage their facilities and many do, however we have to respect the Proprietor and Managing Director (or Committee person) who have the overall responsibility for the business.

During the last twelve months, the GTC with the excellent support of England Golf, has hosted seven employer-led workshops with Laurence McCreath, MGT, Turf Master One, delivering the training on behalf of the GTC.

These pilot workshops were designed to give employers an overview of all aspects of course maintenance and management.

We report that all workshops had a mix of delegates from Chairman of Green, Secretary Managers, Golf Professionals and Course Managers.

Credit must go to Laurence for pitching all the workshops at a level that all delegates enjoyed the day.

The feedback from all 100+ delegates has been very positive and plans are in hand to extend the workshop into Scotland and Wales with the support of the Scottish Golf Union and Golf Union of Wales.

The keystück is that all delegates enjoyed the day and are now very much looking forward to the next round.

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, looks at club investment in training

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There is little doubt that whether it is in golf course playing conditions in Britain, or the “other” sports turf playing surfaces, great strides have been made in recent years to maintain and present both sustainable, all year round playing surfaces and pleasing on the eye.

Not always easy, with increasing restrictions on water use, increasing costs of products, all of which is designed to assist the Course Manager meet the demands for his or her course, to attract members and visitors and to keep the business healthy.

We often focus on how continual greenkeeper education and training is a must for any golf course to survive. Few can argue with this statement, however, what about the employer’s continual education and training?

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The HSE & Safety workshops have been working very hard to support the golf clubs and golfers they represent in many areas and Chairman of Green, Green Convener workshops hosted in association with the GTC are proving very popular.

Now we are past the original pilot workshops, and taking into consideration feedback from delegates the GTC has already hosted a Health & Safety workshop courtesy of The Mere Golf and Spa in Cheshire.

One, delivering the training on behalf of the GTC.

Laurence Pithie MG, Turf Master & Safety Consultant, and Toro were supported by the local Toro dealer & Safety Consultant and Toro were supported by the local Toro dealer and the QA Training Providers and were supported by the local Toro dealer Cheshire Turf Machinery.

Further employers Health & Safety workshops are being planned as well as the subject of improving Communication within the golf club and Renovation and Design of the golf course being delivered by Frank Newbery and Swan Golf Designs respectively.

The GTC Board of Directors are continually looking at engaging golf club employers into improving their business through investing in greenkeeper training
E.R.S. Developments Ltd

E.R.S. Developments Ltd is one of the country’s leading wildlife management and invasive weed control specialists. We are focused on satisfying our clients’ bespoke needs and have I.O.S.H. (Institute of Safety and Health) and City and Guilds trained technicians. We are also recognised by the Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive for wildlife management and invasive weed control. We ensure that our unique treatment of Japanese Knotweed is without a doubt among the biggest challenges for our industry today. It is a highly invasive UK’s major vertebrate pest. Recent figures suggest that the UK population has reached 47 million, and still counting. This is a very emotive subject so management has to be precise and handled with the utmost discretion. As one of the leading specialists in wildlife management we offer a bespoke service to all clients.

Japanese Knotweed is without a doubt a formidable partnership, sometimes even allowing the weed, which can spread exceptionally fast from only a small seedling, to grow between tarmac, and almost any weakness in a foundation. In addition to this, Japanese Knotweed can be highly invasive and can spread fast from as little as a 0.7 gram and can remain dormant in the soil for over four years making a professional and scientific approach to its eradication vital if 100% success is to be guaranteed. The ‘FAST’ system has been developed for eradicating Japanese Knotweed. This is a very emotive subject so management has to be precise and handled with the utmost discretion. As one of the leading specialists in wildlife management we offer a bespoke service to all clients.

For fast and friendly UK wide drainage service call John Meiklem on: 01772 877289 (Preston, Lancs) or email: john.meiklem@meiklem.com

To get the most from your irrigation equipment, call Roger Davey on: 01823 690216 or email: info@irritechlimited.co.uk

Visit the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry at: www.greenkeepinguk.co.uk

For full details of drainage and spraying requirements, call: 01347 833 832 or email: jill@bigga.co.uk

Visit: www.duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk

For drainage, tarmac lay and drainage work, call: 01257 255327

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