Success for Sussex

Keith Weller and his team produced a superbly presented golf course with some lively paced greens after heavy overnight rain for the annual triangular match between the Essex, Surrey and Sussex Sections of BIGGA at Lingfield Park Golf Club. This year after a closely contested match the ten men of Sussex (147) held the stronghold held by Surrey over recent years of the event by winning margins of just three points with Essex finishing a close third. Nearest the pin winners on the day were Sam Cooke and George Barr, with Antony Kirwan taking the longest drive. Lingfield Park, like BIGGA, are celebrating 25 years since the formation of their Club. We are grateful to Ernest Doe for their continued support of this popular event.

REMUNERATION 2013

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries (CGCS) have recommended a 1.5% increase in the level of recommended Salary Scale for Greenkeepers. This increase is less than the 2.5% RPI rate normally adopted as the Committee accepts that the current year has been a very difficult one for Golf Clubs and the continued strain on their finances.

The CGCS recommended rates of pay package are guidelines only and the Committee is aware that they are for negotiation only and that, as in many industries, some staff will earn substantially more, while others will earn less, depending on the standing of the golf club. The CGCS wants to emphasise that these scales are for ‘packages’ and should be treated as such, whilst taking into account individual and team performance and any increase in responsibility and/or qualification.

The CGCS, once again, wishes to draw the attention of golf clubs to impending changes in pension legislation. Regional variations will be published and downloadable in PDF format from the BIGGA and GCMA websites from December onwards.

SUPPORT ‘MOVEMBER’ AND WIN A TRIP TO NEW YORK

Greenkeepers are being urged to support the annual ‘Movember’ charity drive — and put themselves in with the chance of winning a fabulous trip to New York.

British Seed Houses (BSH) has joined forces with movember.com to support the charity on its movember.com website. BSH has also pledged £1,000 towards the cause. The giant moustache was enjoyed by Andrew Cook, the South Wales and South Essex Board of the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) at BIGGA House. We have many members who work in different countries across Europe and there are many areas that affect greenkeeping that are governed by the European Union.

Firstly, I’m delighted to say the board and I recently enjoyed hosting the Board of the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) at BIGGA House. We have many members who work in different countries across Europe and there are many areas that affect greenkeeping that are governed by the European Union.

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Learning & Development
Sami Collins, BIGGA Learning & Development Manager, with an update on education seminars

Wednesday 23rd January
Ecology in Focus - Bob Taylor, STRI
Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop Stages 1 & 2 - Les Howkins/Kerryn Daly/LEE Structt
Working to Increase Nature Without Compromising Golf - Bob Taylor, STRI
Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop Stage 3 - Les Howkins/Kerryn Daly/Lee Strutt
So You Want To Be Promoted - Murray Long, Course Manager, Sunningdale GC and Stuart Varwood, Course Manager, Lynham GC
Ecology and the Business Working Together - Bob Taylor, STRI
For further information and an up-to-date programme for Continue to Learn, visit www.btme.org.uk/education/seminars

As we leave our wonderful (!) summer behind us, let us think about training and the BTME in January. By now you will have received our Continue to Learn brochures and are thinking about which seminars to attend. Let us whip your appetite with a summary of what to expect.

Continue To Learn
Bookings are coming in thick and fast for the Continue to Learn sessions. The advice is to book early; there is no guarantee that there will be seats available. Each seminar is either a full day or a half day and costs £180 or £90 respectively. With the various discounts available, this is an exception.

Library
The library has been offline whilst the selection of books has been updated and re-categorised. Thanks should go to John Deere for their generous donation to the library fund. It has provided the opportunity to remove some of the older books and increase the stock of the more popular ones.

Careers
For those of you who have been using the website recently, you will find the Careers section has changed slightly, with more resources added.

You will find information on apprenticeships, grants, minimum wages, links to colleges and other essential websites. Again, John Deere are kindly providing names of suppliers for this section. If you have any suggestions for the Careers section, please get in touch.

We are pleased to be able to repeat the tastecard offer exclusively for BIGGA Members (time limited – Friday 9th – Wednesday 28th November). BIGGA has once again negotiated an exclusive deal with tastecard, the nation’s largest dining club, to give BIGGA members an exclusive discount on annual membership, helping save a fortune when dining out!

A tastecard membership card gives you access to the most incredible deals at over 6,500 dining establishments nationwide. Restaurants range from La Tasca, Pizza Express, Cafe Rouge and GBK to Mahiki and everything in between! Each restaurant featured offers 50% off the total food bill or 2-4-1 on alcohol courses (even for groups of more than two diners in most cases).

BIGGA Members can join for a full year membership at an exclusive BIGGA rate of £29.95 (RRP £79.95). Be quick, as this offer is only available from November 9th to November 28th 2012. For more catchers, it is just a great deal, and an opportunity for all ‘foodies’ to save a small fortune on eating out over the next 12 months. Stuck for Christmas presents? If you are not sure of the skills they will need.

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This is a great benefit for all members who are currently in study, so whether you are studying at Level 3, 3, 4 or 5, studying for a diploma or degree this is definitely a resource you will find useful.

To access the TGF log in to the members area of the BIGGA website, select ‘Member Resources’ from the options on the left hand side, scroll down to Turfgrass Information File (TGF) and download the Getting Started Guide or just click on the link which will give you access to the file directly.

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Visit the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk to book now to avoid disappointment.

BIGGA Membership
The membership team reflect on current news and affairs affecting you, the BIGGA member.

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Assistants Development Programme
Following on from last month’s launch, the ‘So You Want To Be Promoted’ sessions continue with the South East Regions’, to be held at Sunningdale Golf Club on Tuesday 25th November. November is promoted by Murray Long, Sunningdale Golf Club and Matt Plested, Mussel Hill Golf Club. Further details can be found in the events section of the website. This is an exception-ally worthwhile event to attend for any greenkeepers wanting to prog-
ress in their chosen career and are unsure of the skills they will need.

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Bernhard Opens New Factory and Training Facility

Two days of Open House events at Ransomes Jacobsen’s European head office at Ipswich gave BLEC Global the chance to show off some of their sportsturf and landscaping equipment while creating a new trials area for tee and greens.

Gary Mumby, managing director of BLEC, and demonstrator Tom Shinkins showed a wide range of machinery including the BLEC Laser Grader, the Smithco three-wheel bunker rake, the BLEC Box Scarper and the Cultipack Seeder with Honda ride-on unit.

On the static display they showed the tractor-mounted diskers, the 5.5m Multiseeder, the tractor-mounted Multiseeders and the walk-behind power box rake.

The Ipswich tested village featured industry partners of Ransomes Jacobsen including the AKA, CMAB, IGC, BIGGA, FGCGA, STRI, GEO, Scotts, Syngenta, Bernhard, Rain Bird, Ransol and Smithco.

Gary said: “We were delighted to be part of the new Boomer Compact Tractors, this was the successful launch of our new range of Boomer Compact Tractors, this was the

dasy and Sisis exhibit

Dennis and Sisis have held an exhibition focusing not only on their machinery but their vision of the future.

Members of the turf press headed to Bradford Golf Club, close to the company’s base in Kirk Langley, Derbyshire, to view their range of natural and synthetic turf maintenance equipment.

This also gave certain members the chance to operate some of the machinery – leading to some erratic results on the club’s 18th green!

On the second day of the event, Managing Director Ian Howard led a tour of the impressive factory on site, giving the attendees the benefit of learning the process of building a new machine from the design stage on computer to the construction and delivery.

Customer Manager Roger Moore then explained the ethos behind the firm and their future plans.

New Holland Network in at New FA Facility

St George’s Park, the FA’s brand new £105 million training facility, played host to New Holland’s dealer network this month.

New Holland used its Groundcare Convention to showcase the popular range of Boomer Compact Tractors that has been further extended and upgraded with the introduction of six new Boomer models.

This complete Boomer offering now delivers powers spanning 23-51hp with a range of specifications to suit every need.

The convention included a behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities, a presentation from the FA’s award-winning Head Groundsman Alan Ferguson, and a chance to play football on the pitch where the England men’s team will be training this week.

The New Holland Groundcare Convention follows on from a recent deal which has seen New Holland supply the FA with a Boomer 2035, Boomer 3045, T4020 and T4050 to assist with the on-going maintenance of the 12 elite pitches at St George’s Park.

Alongside the new Boomer Compact range, the entire New Holland Groundcare product portfolio was on offer, including the TZ series, Rover 120 Utility Vehicle, T1560 and T1570, T3000, T4000, T4 Powerstar and T5.

Dick Spencer, New Holland Marketing Manager, commented: “Following the successful launch of our new range of Boomer Compact Tractors, this was the perfect opportunity to show both the New Holland Dealer Network and groundcare trade press exactly what the new machines can do."
Bernhard Opens New Factory and Training Facility

Movers and shakers from across the golf industry attended the grand opening of Bernhard and company’s new factory and training facility – with a former BIGGA chairman doing the honours in unveiling the plaque.

Peter Todd, from the London Golf Club, joined forces with Pat Finlen from the Olympic Club in San Francisco at the event at the hugely impressive new base in Haverhill, Cambridgeshire.

As well as representatives from HGGA, FFGGA and AGCOA various leaders from golf associations across the world travelled down for the historic day – joining other industry figures, course owners and members of the press.

Before lunch, Stephen Bernhard outlined the company’s fascinating history and added how excited he was about the new development.

He said: “We started our business way back in the early 1800’s and it’s grown year on year in the same group of ancient Victorian buildings. We really had to expand and upgrade the facilities.

“The training and education side of our business is growing all the time so we needed a dedicated area for that as well as a demonstration area for user and staff training. It’s a massive step for a small British company to make in the global turf industry.

“Despite all the economic challenges that we face as an industry, we move into this building with confidence in the market and we are determined to give the business a huge success.”

Bernhard Manufacturing Manager Shaun McCarthy added: “The building was designed to a very high spec. It is efficient and eco-friendly. It was important for us to have flexible space and it can be adapted which will allow us to adapt to the changing needs of the market.

“We also wanted to incorporate something of our heritage so the reception area reflects a hint of the old Victorian sheds. The effect works well.”

BIGGA vice-chairman Chris Sealey attended and commended: “It’s very, very impressive. What strikes me most is how modern and comfortable it is, and the working conditions are first-class.”

BTME is back

for its 24th year at the HIC, 22-24 January 2013

Visit www.btme.org.uk and click the Register Now icon

INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

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Gary Mumby, managing director of TILC, and demonstrator Tom Bishara showed a wide range of machines to visiting greenkeepers, groundsmen, contractors and local authority ground managers.

“We had a tremendous couple of days,” says Gary, “and seeing the machinery in action on the new golf site gave visitors a practical demonstration of capabilities.”

Using Iseki tractors supplied by Ransomes Jacobsen, Gary and Tom prepared and seeded three trial plots with varieties including the BLEC Laser Seeder, the Smithco three-wheel bunker rake, the BLEC Box Scarper and the Cultipack Seeder with Honda ride-on unit.

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Gary said: “We were delighted to be part of the Ransomes-Jacobsen days. Some of the industry’s top people were there and we met many old friends and customers.”

DENNIS AND SISIS EXHIBIT

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RYDER CUP VARIETIES AVAILABLE IN THE UK

British Seed Houses had an extra reason for celebrating Europe’s greatest ever comeback in the Ryder Cup as holders of exclusive rights in the UK to two grass seed varieties used at Medinah Country Club, BSH is hoping it will prove a ‘driver’ for sales in this country.

The tournament course greens were seeded with creeping bentgrasses 007 DSB and SR1119 and the fairways were also renovated using both varieties to ensure they were in excellent condition for the world’s greatest golfers and the intense media spotlight.

Richard Brown, Anemoney Sales Manager at BSH, said: “Europe’s Ryder Cup victory against all the odds was amazing. It was fascinating and thrilling to watch but we also took a particular interest in the look and performance of the course as we are the exclusive agents for 007 DSB and SR1119 in the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia.

SR1119 creeping bent has been bred for its dark green colour, exceptional disease resistance and excellent green spread, all qualities required to produce top performing golf greens.

The versatile 007 DSB creeping bent can be used on greens, tees and fairways, as a complete seed or for overseeding. One of the ‘super bent’ varieties, it is widely adaptable to deliver the same results all over the world, from extreme heat to harsh cold conditions.

Offering superior turf quality, it eliminates winter stress and aeration damage and is highly competitive against poa annua. It has high disease resistance especially to Anthracnose, Fusarium and Snow Mold.

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The tournament course greens were seeded with creeping bentgrasses 007 DSB and SR1119 and the fairways were also renovated using both varieties to ensure they were in excellent condition for the world’s greatest golfers and the intense media spotlight.

Richard Brown, Anemoney Sales Manager at BSH, said: “Europe’s Ryder Cup victory against all the odds was amazing. It was fascinating and thrilling to watch but we also took a particular interest in the look and performance of the course as we are the exclusive agents for 007 DSB and SR1119 in the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia.

SR1119 creeping bent has been bred for its dark green colour, exceptional disease resistance and excellent green spread, all qualities required to produce top performing golf greens.

The versatile 007 DSB creeping bent can be used on greens, tees and fairways, as a complete seed or for overseeding. One of the ‘super bent’ varieties, it is widely adaptable to deliver the same results all over the world, from extreme heat to harsh cold conditions.

Offering superior turf quality, it eliminates winter stress and aeration damage and is highly competitive against poa annua. It has high disease resistance especially to Anthracnose, Fusarium and Snow Mold.

St George’s Park, the FA’s brand new £105 million training facility, played host to New Holland’s dealer network this month.

New Holland used its Groundcare Convention to showcase the popular range of Boomer Compact Tractors that has been further extended and upgraded with the introduction of six new Boomer models.

This complete Boomer offering now delivers powers spanning 23–51hp with a range of specifications to suit every need.

The convention included a behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities, a presentation from the FA’s award-winning Head Groundsman Alan Ferguson, and a chance to play football on the pitch where the England men’s team will be training this week.

The New Holland Groundcare Convention follows on from a recent deal which has seen New Holland supply the FA with a Boomer 3035, Boomer 3045, T4020 and T4050 to assist with the on-going maintenance of the 12 elite pitches at St George’s Park.

Alongside the new Boomer Compact range, the entire New Holland Groundcare product portfolio was on offer, including the T2 series, Rutrail 120 Utility Vehicle, T1560 and T1570, T3000, T4000, T4 Powstarr and T5.

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Golden Browning

Steve Castle reports from Ayrshire on a glorious BIGGA National Championship 2012, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.
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BIGGA National Championship 2012

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Oly Browning, assistant greenkeeper at Stocks Golf Club in Hertfordshire, blazed round the formidable links at Irvine Golf Club in Ayshire to claim the title of BIGGA National Champion 2012.

67 players flocked to the extremely challenging course from as far afield as Ireland and the South Coast all dreaming of glory. Incredibly, after a miserable summer across the UK, Scotland enjoyed what BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton described as “the best two days of weather imaginable” with unbroken sunshine teaming up with the rolling countryside to provide a breathtaking vista for play.

Theoretically, the tremendous weather should have led to perfect conditions for play – but the course still provided difficult throughout with a number of players posting no returns, mainly due to the heather conditions for play – but the course also been really good fun, I had a good laugh with all of my playing partners.”

Steve Mason, his Course Manager at Stocks, said: “Oly has won Club Championship four years on the trot, so I’m sure he will not be repeated.”

“Had spoken about turning pro but tried a Europro event and was disappointed by the outcome as he was 24 shots off the lead after 36 holes of qualifying. “But he has gained strength from this experience and gone out after work every day whether he practice or playing. “To win the event is a massive boost for him, we all hope he can use this to build his confidence and achieve his dream of becoming a star on the big stage.”

Ryan Bruns from Roundwood Golf Club in Barnsley had the honour of striking the first tee shot on a bright October morning. At the end of the first day’s play, Oly led the way with a magnificent par 71, establishing a two-shot lead over Gary Burgess from Grange Park and George Morgan from The Mendip.

The Monday evening saw the competitors, sponsors and BIGGA team enjoy excellent hospitality in the traditional clubhouse, with a three-course meal and speeches from Jim and BIGGA Chairman Tony Smith.

Both made a point of thanking the sponsors Charterhouse and Kubota, who once again offered first-class support for the annual event.

Once again the Scottish sunshine rose over the course on the second morning, eventually clearing the cool crisp frost from the fairways, paving the way for another spectacular autumn day. Almost every golfer returned to the BIGGA registration area with tales of two days – including Tony who wrecked a potentially respectable round with eight shots in a bunker on the 18th.

But they were delighted by the challenge, and hugely impressed by the quality of the course – indeed Head Greenkeeper Derek Wilson and his team were overwhelmed with congratulations.

Simon Woolley, from Bricken- don Grange Golf Club, said: “The course is absolutely gorgeous, it’s in fantastic condition. Everything about it is superb. The greens are brilliant. If you don’t hole a putt it’s your fault!”

Gavin Robson, from Burton-on- Trent Golf Club, said: “It’s an awesome course, the greens are beautiful and true. It’s a true heathland golf course and a true test of your golf. You can’t stray off line because if you do, you’re in the heather and you’re in trouble.”

“Think I had any advantage knowing how to enter in forthcoming events. But the real highlight for me has been the camaraderie. It’s a great opportunity to catch up with old colleagues and also meet new people from across the industry.”

Derek Wilson himself enjoyed some rare relaxation time with a couple of rounds of golf in the sun.

He commented: “It’s been a very good couple of days, everyone’s thoroughly enjoyed it - not just the golf but the evening do was a great night.”

“I played alright on the first day, not so well on the second. I don’t think I had any advantage knowing the course – there are too many bushes on it which I found!”

The excitement grew during the second afternoon as the returning players enjoyed a well-earned drink in the clubhouse.

However it soon became clear that overnight leader Oly was in no mood to relinquish his slot at the top of the leaderboard as his 75 ensured a memorable victory – a gross score of 146 enough to win by three shots.

Carnoustie’s Duncan Cairnie and Cathkin Braes’ Gordon Sangster were his nearest challengers on 149 – Duncan claiming the runner-up spot by virtue of a superior second round.

Kenneth Mitchell from St Andrews won the Challenge Cup for best nett score with 141. As the sun set on a hugely successful tournament, thoughts turned to next year’s venue – Pritfield Heath Golf Club in Oxfordshire. Keep an eye out for how to enter in forthcoming issues – it’s a competition not to be missed.

Thanks to Derek Wilson, his team, everyone at Irvine Golf Club and all the competitors who flew or drove vast distances to play.

BIGGA CHALLENGE CUP (Best nett score over 36 holes)
1) Kenneth Mitchell (St Andrews) 141 (70, 71) – £100 prize
2) Gary Burgess (Grange Park) 145 (70, 75) – £50 prize
3) George Morgan (The Mendip) 151 (83, 78) – £25 prize

BIGGA CHALLENGE BOWL (Affiliate)
1) Oly Browning (Stoks) 146 (71, 75) – £50 prize
2) Duncan Cairnie (Carnoustie) 149 (75, 74) – £25 prize
3) Gordon Sangster (Cathkin Braes) 149 (74, 75) – £25 prize

BIGGA CHALLENGE PLATE (Stableford)
1) Sam Fuller (Leven) – £50 prize
Oly Browning, assistant greenkeeper at Stocks Golf Club in Hertfordshire, blazed round the formidable links at Irvine Golf Club in Ayrshire to claim the title of BIGGA National Champion 2012.

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Theoretically, the tremendous weather should have led to perfect conditions for play – but the course still proved difficult throughout with a number of players posting no returns, mainly due to the heather and gorse waiting to gobble up practice or playing.

Almost every golfer I saw with a number of players posting no returns, mainly due to the heather and gorse waiting to gobble up practice or playing.

But they were delighted by the challenge, and hugely impressed by the quality of the course – indeed Head Greenkeeper Derek Wilson and his team were overwhelmed with congratulations.

Executive Jim Croxton described the BIGGA National Championship as “the proudest moment of his golfing career.”

“I think the key was hitting the greens – I hit a lot of them which was pleasing. It’s a difficult course but despite that, it can still be forgiving in some places.”

Playing off scratch, the modest 23-year-old explained he has won minor events in the past but this was the proudest moment of his golfer’s career.

“This is probably the biggest trophy I’ve ever won. It’s the fourth time I’ve entered, I came fourth last year so it feels really good to get my name on the trophy at last.

“I drove up with my brother, it’s a beautiful route to the course – there are too many bushes on it. I played alright on the first day, not so well on the second. I don’t think I had any advantage knowing the course – there are too many bushes on it which I found!”

The excitement grew during the second afternoon as the returning players enjoyed a well-earned drink in the clubhouse. However it soon became clear that overnight leader Oly was in no mood to relinquish his slot at the top of the leaderboard as he’s ensured a memorable victory – a gross score of 146 enough to win by three shots.

Carnoustie’s Duncan Cairnie and Cathkin Braes’ Gordon Sangster were his nearest challengers on 149 – Duncan claiming the runner-up slot by virtue of a superior second round.

“All the way around with eight shots in a bunker on the 18th.

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Bio-inspired explosive performance

The exciting new fungicide inspired by nature. Contact® action delivers fast knockdown of Fusarium in leaf and thatch along with outstanding long-lasting protection.

Visit www.greencast.co.uk for more information

Contact®
syngenta.

Modern mix herbicides - a match for turf weeds

Turf weeds are a collection of plants covering broad-leaved species and rough grasses and wider in range than anything found in agricultural grassland or specific arable crops. As such greenkeepers require a sufficiently strong and broad spectrum of herbicide activity to eliminate a wide range of ‘easy’ and ‘difficult’ weeds from managed turf in the same strike.

Despite such a spectrum of turf weeds, each with its own characteristics, greenkeepers are keeping their greens, tees and fairways substantially weed free using a relatively restricted range of actives - made possible by the highly sophisticated nature of turf herbicide technology.

Commercial products combining the individual strengths of different active ingredients in a single herbicide formulation continue to underpin this market.

With few exceptions, modern turf herbicide products are no longer single active ingredient formulaations, but two and three, or even four way products like Bayer Environmental Science’s Longbow (2,4-D, MCPA, MCPP-P and disulfur). The exciting new fungicide inspired by nature. Contact® action delivers fast knockdown of Fusarium in leaf and thatch along with outstanding long-lasting protection.

Today’s turf herbicide market is dynamic with old actives lost and new ones gained to satisfy the increasing demands of turf weed management. But this is not the whole story because a series on ongoing European Union (EU) directives continue to hit herbicides both directly and indirectly.

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the different herbicides available to tackle those troublesome weeds

Some actives have been forced from the marketplace on safety and/or environmental grounds. Other perfectly sound active ingredients have been voluntarily withdrawn by the manufacturer because the cost involved in producing the extra data does not add up for this relatively small niche market.

Be that as it may, herbicides lost have been more than compensated for by new actives bringing hitherto undreamed of benefits for weed control in professional sports turf.

Greenkeepers are keeping their greens, tees and fairways substantially weed free using a relatively restricted range of actives - made possible by the highly sophisticated nature of turf herbicide technology

Mode of action

Many facets contribute to the success of a turf herbicide but mode of action is at the very core. Very first selective herbicides used in turf were the synthetic auxin herbicides, chemicals which are similar in structure and activity to the natural plant hormone auxin.

They target the meristems and mimic the effects of natural auxin to cause abnormal plant growth

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