The competition doesn’t want you to see the Jacobsen ECLIPSE® 322 riding greens mower. They can’t match its: ZERO leak points. They can’t provide individual reel control to vary cut patterns. They can’t offer programmable frequency-of-clipping from an LED screen. And they can’t get anywhere near the true hybrid fuel savings or legendary quality-of-cut. When it comes to the ECLIPSE® 322, the competition can’t do anything except hope you don’t see it. I guess we just ruined that for them, too.
The competition doesn’t want you to see the Jacobsen ECLIPSE® 322 riding greens mower. They can’t match its ZERO leak points. They can’t provide individual reel control to vary cut patterns. They can’t offer programmable frequency-of-clip from an LED screen. And they can’t get anywhere near the true hybrid fuel savings or legendary quality-of-cut. When it comes to the ECLIPSE® 322, the competition can’t offer a legendary performance.

For a Legendary Performance, call 01473 270000

www.ransomesjacobsen.com
No doubting Thomas

No doubt the Greenkeeper of the Year award enhanced the career of the 23-year-old winner Thomas Flavelle. He is prefixed by the accolade ‘greenkeeper’ in his title but he is comfortable with it. ‘I am proud to follow in my father Henri’s footsteps,’ Flavelle said. ‘I'm an experienced greenkeeper, and while he's a very good player and professional level, I have to say I'm the greenkeeper. He's very realistic and knows what connections.'

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a hearty breakfast in the kitchen at Lingdale Golf Club in North Yorkshire almost a year after scooping the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012 award from the prestigious British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA). Flavelle is currently a Level Three student at Myerscough College.

He found it ‘unbelievable’ when he found out he was the winner, as he and the other six Student of the Year finalists were all so good – they wouldn't have gone through such a rigorous process to win. ‘I was aware there were other candidates capable of winning the award, so it could have gone to anybody. It's important to be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

Flavelle has spent his whole life working on golf courses. His attitude and outlook belies his 23 years. ‘After I've completed Level Three at Myerscough College I'm going to probably look at doing a foundation degree and also consider other options to progress my education. It was a fantastic opportunity with my career and just entering the world of golf and the sport of golf is highly technical detail. But I can't be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

It does help that my dad is a greenkeeper, and it also means I'm under no illusions it's going to be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level. ‘I'm proud to follow in his footsteps he's experienced greenkeeper, and while he's not a very good player, I've never actually worked with my career and just entering the world of golf and the sport of golf is highly technical detail. But I can't be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

Flavelle had emerged victorious. ‘I've really progressed as a greenkeeper, and while he's not a very good player, I've never actually worked with my career and just entering the world of golf and the sport of golf is highly technical detail. But I can't be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

Pest and disease conquer the horse chestnut

Dr Terry Mabbutt talks to him hours after the 23-year-old scooped the award…

The Quiet Giant

Dr Terry Mabbutt on the bleak dangers of the Giant Hogweed and how the award enhanced his career on how the award enhanced his career. Flavelle was distraction because he was so proud to follow in his footsteps he's experienced greenkeeper, and while he's not a very good player, I've never actually worked with my career and just entering the world of golf and the sport of golf is highly technical detail. But I can't be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

Small scale drainage products need not be costly

James de Haviland looks at ‘DIY’ drainage solutions.

Come rain or shine

How to cope with our unpredictable climate.

40 Pest and disease conquer the horse chestnut

Dr Terry Mabbutt on the bleak future for one of our iconic trees.

28 Karl's brush with fame

How does Karl Parry combine his course management role with designing a new product with his bare hands? We find out.

No doubt the Greenkeeper of the Year award enhanced the career of the 23-year-old winner Thomas Flavelle. He is prefixed by the accolade ‘greenkeeper’ in his title but he is comfortable with it. ‘I am proud to follow in my father Henri’s footsteps,’ Flavelle said. ‘I'm an experienced greenkeeper, and while he's a very good player and professional level, I have to say I'm the greenkeeper. He's very realistic and knows what connections.'

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a hearty breakfast in the kitchen at Lingdale Golf Club in North Yorkshire almost a year after scooping the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012 award from the prestigious British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA). Flavelle is currently a Level Three student at Myerscough College.

He found it ‘unbelievable’ when he found out he was the winner, as he and the other six Student of the Year finalists were all so good – they wouldn't have gone through such a rigorous process to win. ‘I was aware there were other candidates capable of winning the award, so it could have gone to anybody. It's important to be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

It does help that my dad is a greenkeeper, and it also means I'm under no illusions it's going to be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

After I've completed Level Three at Myerscough College I'm going to probably look at doing a foundation degree and also consider other options to progress my education. It was a fantastic opportunity with my career and just entering the world of golf and the sport of golf is highly technical detail. But I can't be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

I'm proud to follow in his footsteps he's experienced greenkeeper, and while he's not a very good player, I've never actually worked with my career and just entering the world of golf and the sport of golf is highly technical detail. But I can't be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

Flavelle had emerged victorious. ‘I've really progressed as a greenkeeper, and while he's not a very good player, I've never actually worked with my career and just entering the world of golf and the sport of golf is highly technical detail. But I can't be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

Pest and disease conquer the horse chestnut

Dr Terry Mabbutt talks to him hours after the 23-year-old scooped the award…

The Quiet Giant

Dr Terry Mabbutt on the bleak dangers of the Giant Hogweed and how the award enhanced his career on how the award enhanced his career. Flavelle was distraction because he was so proud to follow in his footsteps he's experienced greenkeeper, and while he's not a very good player, I've never actually worked with my career and just entering the world of golf and the sport of golf is highly technical detail. But I can't be a very, very intense few weeks and professional level. It was great for me on both a personal and professional level.’

Small scale drainage products need not be costly

James de Haviland looks at ‘DIY’ drainage solutions.

Come rain or shine

How to cope with our unpredictable climate.

40 Pest and disease conquer the horse chestnut

Dr Terry Mabbutt on the bleak future for one of our iconic trees.

28 Karl's brush with fame

How does Karl Parry combine his course management role with designing a new product with his bare hands? We find out.
No doubting Thomas

20

How does Karl Parry combine his course management role with designing a new product with his bare hands? We find out

32 Small scale drainage products need not be costly

James de Hartland looks at ‘DIY’ drainage solutions

34 Come rain or shine

How to cope with our unpredictable climate

40 Pest and disease conquer the horse chestnut

Dr Terry Mabbutt on the bleak future for one of our iconic trees

44 BTME 2013 – Why you must attend

An update on the show of the year

58 Back in Time

1989 Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner David Norton on how the award enhanced his career

REGULARS

6 Newsdesk
13 Chairman’s word
14 Learning & Development
15 Membership
16 Industry Update
18 New Products
48 Around the Green
55 Diary of Events
56 Greenkeepers Training Committee
60 Buyers’ Guide
64 Recruitment
66 The Back Nine

Send your images to magimage@bigga.org.uk

GI
The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.

GI_OCT_12 A.indd   20-21
OCTOBER 2012 OCTOBER 2012
TORO STUDENT

23-year-old scooped the award…

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

I'm under no illusions, it's going to be a gruelling hours during the紧 deadline and faced an in-depth course report to a highly technical detail. But I can't wait to take on the challenge, it will be the 23-year-old scooped the award…

Now it's all about looking for-

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a

A BRUSH UNPREDICTABLE CLIMATE

Coping with our unpredictable climate

A BRUSH CONTROL CLIMATE

Inside…

GI_OCT_12 A.indd   20-21
OCTOBER 2012 OCTOBER 2012
TORO STUDENT

23-year-old scooped the award…

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

I'm under no illusions, it's going to be a gruelling hours during the紧 deadline and faced an in-depth course report to a highly technical detail. But I can't wait to take on the challenge, it will be the 23-year-old scooped the award…

Now it's all about looking for-

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a

A BRUSH UNPREDICTABLE CLIMATE

Coping with our unpredictable climate

A BRUSH CONTROL CLIMATE

Inside…

GI_OCT_12 A.indd   20-21
OCTOBER 2012 OCTOBER 2012
TORO STUDENT

23-year-old scooped the award…

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

I'm under no illusions, it's going to be a gruelling hours during the紧 deadline and faced an in-depth course report to a highly technical detail. But I can't wait to take on the challenge, it will be the 23-year-old scooped the award…

Now it's all about looking for-

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a

A BRUSH UNPREDICTABLE CLIMATE

Coping with our unpredictable climate

A BRUSH CONTROL CLIMATE

Inside…

GI_OCT_12 A.indd   20-21
OCTOBER 2012 OCTOBER 2012
TORO STUDENT

23-year-old scooped the award…

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

I'm under no illusions, it's going to be a gruelling hours during the紧 deadline and faced an in-depth course report to a highly technical detail. But I can't wait to take on the challenge, it will be the 23-year-old scooped the award…

Now it's all about looking for-

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a

A BRUSH UNPREDICTABLE CLIMATE

Coping with our unpredictable climate

A BRUSH CONTROL CLIMATE

Inside…

GI_OCT_12 A.indd   20-21
OCTOBER 2012 OCTOBER 2012
TORO STUDENT

23-year-old scooped the award…

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

I'm under no illusions, it's going to be a gruelling hours during the紧 deadline and faced an in-depth course report to a highly technical detail. But I can't wait to take on the challenge, it will be the 23-year-old scooped the award…

Now it's all about looking for-

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a

A BRUSH UNPREDICTABLE CLIMATE

Coping with our unpredictable climate

A BRUSH CONTROL CLIMATE

Inside…

GI_OCT_12 A.indd   20-21
OCTOBER 2012 OCTOBER 2012
TORO STUDENT

23-year-old scooped the award…

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

I'm under no illusions, it's going to be a gruelling hours during the紧 deadline and faced an in-depth course report to a highly technical detail. But I can't wait to take on the challenge, it will be the 23-year-old scooped the award…

Now it's all about looking for-

Thomas Flavelle tucks into a

A BRUSH UNPREDICTABLE CLIMATE

Coping with our unpredictable climate

A BRUSH CONTROL CLIMATE

Inside…
John Deere Present £5K Gift to BIGGA at Slaley Hall

John Deere kindly donated £5,000 to BIGGA at their latest Team Championship of four. The team were greens manager John Muir, Brian Kirwan as the captain and two others, plus a late substitute for course manager Jamie Whittle. The team were greens manager John Muir, Brian Kirwan as the captain and two others, plus a late substitute for course manager Jamie Whittle. The team were greens manager John Muir, Brian Kirwan as the captain and two others, plus a late substitute for course manager Jamie Whittle. The team were greens manager John Muir, Brian Kirwan as the captain and two others, plus a late substitute for course manager Jamie Whittle.

BIGGA Commercial Manager Appointed

The latest activity at BIGGA HQ has been the appointment of James Cadwaladr as Commercial Manager. James joins the Association from a similar position at a sports marketing agency, where he worked closely with right-handers in the sports industry advising on commercial opportunities. His arrival complements the management team at BIGGA House. James said: “My focus is to develop sales, marketing and communications, ensuring these areas work together to serve the needs of our membership whilst delivering first-class support and value to all of our partners and key stakeholders. I have extensive experience in the commercial side of the sports industry, in establishing strategic partnerships and liaising with key clients and stakeholders.”

STRI Research 2012

STRI Research 2012 once again took place in Bingley and featured a range of fascinating presentations to turf professionals from across the UK. The institute works with a number of companies each year on Research & Development projects for the sportsturf industry and invited a selection of these companies to support the free two-day educational event.

This year, Syngenta’s key introduction to their new Turf Nozzle system, Sherriff Anemity & Plant Impact’s new liquid fungicide ‘SNtrinch’ and a sneak preview of Bayer’s new turf fungicide – officially to be launched at BTME 2013. Over 250 delegates attended including greenkeepers, course managers, fine turf managers and ground staff. Gooden McKibbin, STRI Chief Executive, said: “The event provided sportsturf managers with invaluable insight and knowledge from industry experts to improve and sustain the quality of their turf.”

Other interesting discussions arose from Syngenta’s lively introduction to their new Turf Nozzle system, Sherriff Anemity & Plant Impact’s new liquid fungicide ‘SNtrinch’ and a sneak preview of Bayer’s new turf fungicide – officially to be launched at BTME 2013. Over 250 delegates attended including greenkeepers, course managers, fine turf managers and ground staff. Gooden McKibbin, STRI Chief Executive, said: “The event provided sportsturf managers with invaluable insight and knowledge from industry experts to improve and sustain the quality of their turf.”

“Attendees learnt firsthand how STRI’s long term research has helped to optimise the performance of sports surfaces at many of this year events including Euro 2012 and the Olympics. The event also enabled delegates from a whole host of sporting disciplines to see the commitment and dedication of STRI and all the supporting companies.”

Brian Shoy, Course Manager at Slikoth on Roway Golf Club, commented: “The information we gained stimulated much debate and gave us a bit of much needed inspiration.”

SALTEX Support

BIGGA were once again delighted to support the SOG SALTEX event at Woburn – and even happier to enjoy the exhibition over three days of glorious late summer weather!

We were inundated with positive feedback from our seminars which featured three of our most popular experts from Continue to Learn at BTME 2012. David Cole, left, Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club, kicked off with an inspirational and informative session on managing winter kill after his club was severely affected by this in 2009. Next up was Chris Haspell, Course Manager at Castle Stuart Golf Club, who entertained the audience with his experiences of building a links golf course and hosting the rain-lashed Scottish Open in 2011. “Paul Lowe, Technical Sales Manager from Symbio, rounded things off with a debate entitled ‘Organic Matter – Friend or Foe?’ analysing how to decipher between truthful and assuring material.

All in all, a highly enjoyable and worthwhile few days – and attention now switches to BTME in January.
John Deere Present £5K Gift to BIGGA at Slaley Hall

John Deere kindly donated £5,000 to BIGGA at their latest Team Championship amid the spectacular surroundings of Slaley Hall in Northumberland.

Richard Johnson, John Deere Limited managing director, presented the cheque to BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Cadwaladr.

"John Deere, a BIGGA Gold Key member, works closely with BIGGA to support educational activities. Team championship donations at previous tournaments amount to over £50,000. The Slaley Hall final was the culmination of 24 regional finals held around the UK and Ireland that were supported by local John Deere dealers. Teams of three consisting of the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper along with two further senior members of the club management competed in a texas scramble format to reach the final. They were then joined by a dealer representative making a team of four.

The teams battled it out and after a wet start, the skies cleared for a glorious afternoon of golf on the superb course, expertly prepared by Course Manager Steve Crum and his team.

The format proved popular and after a highly competitive day's golf, the winners with a net score of 58 were West Lancashire Golf Club. The team were greens chairman Nick Jones, Kevin Pickering of Turners Groundscare, first assistant greenkeeper Jamie Whittle (a late substitute for course manager John Muij) and committee member Ian Kearney. The team (with John now have the fabulous opportunity to compete in the World Championship at Myrtle Beach, South California in November.

Second on countback with 59 were Royal North Devon Golf Club followed by Selby Golf Club.

Jim said: "We are very grateful for this generous donation from John Deere who are great supporters of our association and our membership. The funds will be utilised to improve our lending library service and to kickstart a new Careers in Greenkeeping project which we hope will provide a great service to prospective and current greenkeepers.

"It was a privilege to attend the John Deere Team Championship and witness so many golf clubs competing to win the remarkable opportunity to go forward to the Myrtle Beach Grand Final. The format of the Team Championship is superb as it encourages teamwork and communication between the senior management of golf clubs, John Deere are to be congratulated on their support of the event."

BIGGA Commercial Manager Appointment

The recent activity at BIGGA HQ has continued with the appointment of James Cadwaladr as Commercial Manager.

James, who has been the Association's familiar face at a sports marketing agency, where he worked closely with key stakeholders in the sports industry advising on commercial opportunities. His arrival continues the management team at BIGGA House.

James said: "My focus is to develop our sales, marketing and communications, ensuring these areas work together to serve the needs of our membership whilst delivering first-class support and value to all of our partners and clients. He has extensive experience in the commercial side of the sports industry, in establishing strategic partnerships and appreciating client needs.

James is a keen golfer, and a passionate supporter of Everton FC."

STRI Research 2012

STRI Research 2012 once again took place in Bingley and featured a range of fascinating presentations to turf professionals from across the UK.

The Institute works with a number of companies each year on Research Development projects for the sport turf industry and invited a selection of these companies to support the free two-day educational event.

This year Bayer, Evriem, Rik Knection & Riggay Taylor, Ramsones-Jacobson, Sherriff Anemity & Plant Impact and Syngenta were in attendance.

Seven demonstrations took place on the fields overlooking West Yorkshire including a Preparing of Cut demonstration from Ramsones-Jacobson. This was presented by Matt le Bruan - who we profited in last month’s Greenkeeper International.

A particularly popular presentation was a talk at the STRI's work at Wakefield College, featuring an explanation of the science behind grass selection.

Other interesting discussions arose from Syngenta’s lively introduction to their new Turf Nozzle system, Sherriff Anemity & Plant Impact’s new liquid turf fertiliser ‘STrench’ and a sneak preview of Bayer’s new turf fungicide – officially to be launched at BTME 2013.

Over 250 delegates attended including greenkeepers, course managers, fine turf managers and ground staff. Goodon McKibb, STRI Chief Executive, said: "The event provided sport turf managers with invaluable insight and knowledge from industry experts to improve and sustain the quality of their turf."

"Attendees learnt firsthand how STRI’s long term research has helped to optimise the performance of sports surfaces at many of this year events including Euro 2012 and the Olympics."

"The event also enabled delegates from a whole host of sporting disciplines to see the commitment and dedication of STRI and all the supporting companies."

Brianショウ, Course Manager at Silloth on Solway Golf Club, commented: "The information we gained stimulated much debate and gave us a bit of much needed inspiration."

SALTEX Support

BIGGA were once again delighted to support the SOG SALTEX event at Windsor – and even happier to enjoy the exhibition over three days of glorious late summer sunshine.

We were inundated with positive feedback from our seminars which featured three of our most popular experts from Continue to Learn at BTME 2012.

David Cole, left, Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club, kicked off with an inspirational and informative session on managing winter kill after his club was severely affected by this in 2009.

Next up was Chris Haspell, Course Manager at Castle Stuart Golf Club, who entertained the audience with his experiences of building a links golf course and hosting the rain-lashed Scottish Open in 2013.

Paul Lowe, Technical Sales Manager from Symbio, rounded things off with a debate entitled ‘Organic Matter – Friend or Foe?’ analysing how to decipher between thatch and organic matter.

All in all, a highly enjoyable and worthwhile few days – and attention now switches to BTME in January.

RETRAITEMENT

After 44 years of employment, David Wilson has retired from the Greenkeeping team at The Andricks Links. When he started in 1968, things were very different from what they are currently with only 10 green staff looking after the 9 courses that made up the Links.

As he recalled, his job that summer was cutting tee, from May until the end of the season. With another member of staff, they would begin on the 1st tee of the Old and when they were finished the Old Course they would move onto another course. The following day they would start back where they finished off until the tees on all 4 courses were cut, then begin on the 1st of the Old again and repeat the process all summer.

David was one of the first greenkeepers in the UK to gain a recognised qualification in greenkeeping which he obtained at Kingwood College in Cupar, where they started a greenkeeping course with the assistance of the former Head Greenkeeper Mr JK Campbell.

During his time on the Links, David worked on all the courses. He was a foreman on the Eden Course for a spell but over the longest period of time he spent on one course was as head Greenkeeper on the Links from its opening in 1968 until 2007. He was also head greenkeeper on the New Course that was later converted to course manager in 2002. This spell included during the major alterations in the mid 1980's until 2001. He then head greenkeeper on the New Course to the latest conversion to course manager on the Strathtyrum and Balgove courses. He has also previously worked in the Open Championship more than any other Greenkeeper on the Links. A large group of colleagues and friends turned up to wish him a happy retirement including past employers and Greens Committee Chairmen.
It is with regret that we have been informed of the death of BIGGA member Stanley Zontek, director of the USGAA Green Section’s Mid-Atlantic region, at the age of 63, after suffering a heart attack.

Stanley was the son of a golf course superintendent – playing his first round aged just five - and graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Agronomy and Turfgrass Management.

He became one of the most respected agronomists within the industry and was a frequent speaker at HTMDG as well as other seminars in the UK and worldwide where he delighted audiences with his knowledge and enthusiasm. One of his more unusual responsibilities was maintaining the putting green at the White House.

He also received many awards including the GCiAA Distinguished Service Award, the GCiAA Don Rossi Humanitarian Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Penn State – recognising his outstanding lifelong contribution to greenkeeping.

Everyone at BIGGA would like to extend their deepest condolences to Stanley’s family and friends at this sad time.

FLOODING HITS THE UK

The Indian Summer was sadly brought to an abrupt end in mid-September by a three-day deluge which swamped courses across the UK.

Nowhere was this more evident than at BIGGA HQ, where the River Ure burst its banks and flooded half of the Aldwark Manor course. This amazing picture shows the 4th green at the height of the flood.

ANGUS TAKES UP DREAM POST

Angus MacLeod, former Course Manager at Belton Woods Golf Club, has been appointed Director of the Golf Course at The Belfry.

The born and bred Scot follows in the footsteps of the legendary Kenny Mackay.

Angus, 45, said: “I’m really excited, I’m still pinching myself that I’ve been given the opportunity to work at this legendary venue. Kenny’s left a superb legacy and it’s up to me to carry it on.”

“I had to make a presentation to the board of directors, that went well and it came down to a choice between me and another lad who was a nerve-wracking few weeks, and I was just delighted when I found out I had been successful.”

Angus will have responsibility for all three courses at the world famous location – the Brabazon, the PGA National and the Derby – and everyone at BIGGA wishes him the every success in his new role.
It is with regret that we have been informed of the death of BIGGA member Stanley Zontek, director of the USGA Green Section’s Mid-Atlantic region, at the age of 63, after suffering a heart attack.

Stanley was the son of a golf course superintendent – playing his first round aged just five – and graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Agronomy and Turfgrass Management.

He became one of the most respected agronomists within the industry and was a frequent speaker at HTMG as well as other seminars in the UK and worldwide where he delighted audiences with his knowledge and enthusiasm. One of his more unusual responsibilities was maintaining the putting green at the White House.

He also received many awards including the GCBA Distinguished Service Award, the GCBA Don Rossie Humanitarian Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Penn State – recognising his outstanding lifelong contribution to greenskeeping.

Everyone at BIGGA would like to extend their deepest condolences to Stanley’s family and friends at this sad time.

**FLOODING HITS THE UK**

The Indian Summer was sadly brought to an abrupt end in mid-September by a three-day deluge which swamped courses across the UK.

Nowhere was this more evident than at BIGGA HQ, where the River Ure burst its banks and flooded half of the Aldwark Manor course.

This amazing picture shows the 4th green at the height of the flood.

Norrie Whytsock was a trade representative for a Scotland Region patron who passed away in 1997. In memory of Norrie, the patron provided funds for a Trophy to be established in his honour with Bayer CropScience now firmly established as the sponsor of this competitive and enjoyable team event.

John Young, BIGGA’s Regional Administrator for Scotland & Northern Ireland, said: “The 2012 competition was held on Thursday 16 August at its spiritual home of Auchterarder Golf Club. Teams of four members represent each of the five Scottish sections in this stabilized competition.

Team members qualify through their participation and subsequent success at sectional outings along with representation from the section’s committee. "Competitors were provided with a bright yet breezy start to their round. However as has been experienced by many this particular summer, the optimism for a dry round of golf proved unfounded with heavy rain, thunder and lightning disrupting play over the last six holes. Indeed, the course began to flood and the 15th green was unplayable for the last couple of groups.

“The weather during 2012 has certainly not been the greenskeeper’s friend but it is testament to the dedication of all our members that the care and attention to detail is present everywhere we look. Archie Dunn and his team must be congratulated for the excellent course provided for this competition. It was in immaculate condition as commented by all participants with Stuart Taylor, Scottish Regional Chairman singling out the manicured shape to the fairways as one of the many highlights on the course.

“Scoring was excellent even with the unfortunate restriction of only counting the scores over the first 14 holes. The best three scores from each team are combined to determine the competition results. Only one point separated the top three teams with the Central Section just missing out on the top two places with a combined score of 77 points.

“Reigning champions, the North Section and the West Section, both returned a score of 78 points resulting in the 4th team member’s score to be counted to determine the winner but they could not be separated on a total of 102 points. In this situation, the winner is determined on the basis of the best scores from each of the first 14 holes with the North Section being crowned Norrie Whytsock Trophy winners for 2012.

“Congratulations are due to the winning team of Robert Patterson and Stewart Brown (both Royal Aberdeen Golf Club), Douglas Erikkson (Newmacher Golf Club) and Scott Ribeck (Kings Link Golf Club).”

Stuart Taylor, Scottish Chairman, thanked all competitors for taking part and their continued support of this prestigious event in the Scottish Region’s calendar. He concluded his comments by thanking the host club for the courtesy of the course and their excellent hospitality.

Winning team captain, Robert Patterson, concluded the proceedings by accepting the Norrie Whytsock Trophy and passing on his team’s thanks to all concerned with running the event and to Auchterarder Golf Club.

**ANGUS TAKES UP DREAM POST**

Angus MacLeod, former Course Manager at Beltown Woods Golf Club, has been appointed Director of the Golf Course / The Belboy.

The born and bred Scot follows in the footsteps of the legendary Kenny Mackay.

Angus, 45, said: “I’m really excited, I’m just pinning myself down that I’ve been given the opportunity to work at this legendary venue. Kenny’s left a superb legacy and it’s up to me to carry on.

“Had to make a presentation to the board of directors, that went well and it came down to a choice between me and another lad but I was a nerve-wracking few weeks, and I was just delighted when I found out I had been successful.”

Angus will have responsibility for all three courses at the world famous location – the Brabazon, the PGA National and the Derby – and everyone at BIGGA wishes him every success in his new role.
GREENKEEPERS HELP THE HEROES

Four intrepid greenkeepers recently completed a unique challenge as they walked over 130 miles from coast to coast…while pushing hand mowers!

Guthy Stuart Varwood, Eddie Ainsworth, Tim Johnson and Gordon Irvine amazed onlookers as they ‘walked’ three Ransomes Jacobsen pedestrian mowers from Liverpool to Hull over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The bizarre idea, the brainchild of Tim, Greenkeeper at Wirral Golf Club, has (at the last count) raised almost £2,000 for Help for Heroes and you can still donate at www.tmonycharity.com/TimJohnson

The group, plus two non-greenkeepers, battled steep hills in the Yorkshire Dales, terrible weather and even mechanical problems to complete the challenge in an impressive four days.

They began at Liverpool docks and pushed the mowers – christened ‘Trish 1’, ‘Trish 2’ and ‘Trish 3’ - to Manchester on the first day.

The next day was one of the toughest with the team setting off at 6.30am and arriving, sore and tired, at Wakefield at 7.30pm.

The next leg saw them arrive in Goole before Tracy Maddison, BIGGA’s Head of Membership Development, gave them a much needed morale boost by supporting them in Howden en route to Hull.

Tim said: “The idea came to me at work when we were trimming the greens, don’t ask me where it came from but I immediately thought ‘we can expand on this’.

“So I put an appeal on Facebook for other greenkeepers to get involved, Stuart was the first to count himself in and it all went from there.”

Stuart, Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club, said: “Tim suggested that we do something bizarre to raise money for charity a few months ago. I’m a firm believer that if you don’t do something crazy every year you’ll go insane, so I agreed.

“The first day was demoralising. We were pushing these mowers at 3mph on the East Lancs Road which is the longest, most boring straight road you can ever imagine.

“But in the rest of the days we had to contend with long, steep hills. Funzily enough, going up wasn’t a problem because you get the momentum going with the machine – it was going down them that was the worst because you’re pushing a dead weight down a hill.

“Towards the end through the Wirral we had some great focal points and when we saw the Humber Bridge we thought we’d made it. However, it was still 15 miles away which meant five more hours of pain.”

He added that the highlight was the camaraderie that developed between the gutsy lads – who did not all know each other prior to the challenge.

He said: “You get by on Ibuprofen and adrenaline, but at any one time there will be someone who’s struggling so you need to pick them up.

“Fatigue’s not an option, as even though you’re in pain you don’t think about it because you don’t want to affect morale. I had no idea how emotional it was all going to be.

“Ultimately, we were pushing hand mowers. You think it’s tough but we wanted to raise money for people who are pushing mineworkers.”

The lads would like to thank Tim’s dad Stuart who shadowed them and helped them immensely during the challenge, and also sponsors Syngenta, Rigby Taylor, British Seed Houses, Prestige Garden Services, Ransomes Jacobsen and Dennis Anomaly. They were also hugely grateful for the support along the way of Lymm, Wirral and Avo Golf Clubs plus Chris Sheeran and Tracey Maddison.

Watch this space for the lads’ next bizarre challenge summer next minute! 