Around the Green

John Day

Tel: 07570 119160

Glad that’s over, come back and enjoy the golf days again.

Glen Gorse is a beautiful and well maintained golf course, and the opportunity to exchange ideas or simply put the world to rights at Sunset Bar is always nice!

Well done to Rob and Dave Harvey from West Kent 3 & 2.

Our monthly look into the life of a greenkeeper at a four star hotel.

Our Assisted Profile

Name: John Day
Age: 67

Gauder Luce Golf

Driffield

Position: Greenkeeper

Nickname: Big John

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
15 years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?
Working in the outdoors

3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper...

4. Which task do you most enjoy and why?
Cutting greens. This is often the most relaxing task from a physical perspective and a job well done creates a good impression and sets the standard for the whole course.

5. Which task do you least enjoy and why?

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve your job?
A break from the routine of our daily tasks.

7. Hobbies?
Concerts, films and Ebay

8. Favourite Band?

9. What is your most important from a golfer’s perspective?
Cutting greens. This is often the most relaxing task from a physical perspective and a job well done creates a good impression and sets the standard for the whole course.

10. What is your claim to fame? Takeover of a prestigious course.
I thought that I had reached an age when life slowed down and warm summer afternoons were spent sipping champagne on the lawn. No, at a time when I should relax I find that am still busy and lawn, decorating and writing next month’s article for this fine magazine. Sipping champagne is a pipe dream and will have to wait until my first harvest of grapes is picked, fermented, bottled, had its second fermentation, and left to age in my cellar. Of course, you’ve realised I am joking. I do not have a cellar and the garden slabs will have to do.

The McMillan tanker at Sunningdale was due to be played for on July 16th and was won by Steve Alabaster and Mark Brookes. A victory that was the result of Anthony Freeman securing the longest drive and the nearest the pin. He then went on to win the match on the back of a defeat. Not playing well in the opening ceremony was fantastic, during the games Great Britain were awesome, beating any previous medal count. I’m sure many of you spent hours watching the games, and for me equally motivating. With the games closing in such a great fashion, we come together as a nation. Very proud times!

As for the section, Thursday 4th October will be our next event, this is our AGM and will take place at Bristish & Clifton Golf Club. I would also like to thank our patronage partners for 2012, Farmura, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-soil, TH White, Intec Ltd, Avoncrop.
We also have a Facebook 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 feature you are at your fingertips.

I would like to finish on a very positive note, and one that the section is very proud of. Chris Saley is now BIGGA vice chair-man, this is very well deserved. Chris, as a section we wish you all the very best in your future role, good luck!

See you all very soon.
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

2012 Diary of Events

Date Event Venue Contact
Sep 5th BIGGA Seminars Saltex, Wirral Racecourse BIGGA House, 01347 833800 option 3 or info@bigga.co.uk
Sep 11th North Wales Section Event St Meilid Golf Club Jez Hughes, Tel mobile: 07786 776265 or email: jez@j0690.co.uk
Sep 13th North West Section Event Penwortham Golf Club Chris Sheehan, email: jez@blueyonder.co.uk
Sep 13th East of England Section Event Blakenley Golf Club Bruce Hicks Tel mobile: 07901 714922 or email: brucechaika@gmail.com
Sep 13th Scottish North Section Golf Day Granton-on-Spey Golf Club Dale Robertson, email: dalebernherry@aol.com
Sep 18th Scottish West Section Golf Day Fermine Golf Club Fraser Ross, Email: Karen.ross@tesco.net
Sep 19th North West Section Event Porthcawl Golf Club Chris Sheehan email: jez@blueyonder.co.uk
Sep 19th Scottish East Section Autumn Event Murrayfield Golf Club Stuart Ferguson, email: studerg@btinternet.com
Sep 19th Scottish Central Section Golf Day Piperdam Golf & Leisure Resort Gordon Moir, email: gmori@standrews.org.uk
Sep 20th South Coast Section Vs South West Section Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club Alex McCombie, email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
Sep 20th East Midlands Sections AGM and Terry Robinson Guest. Glen Gorse Golf Club Nick Miles Tel: 07842 960866
Sep 26th Essex Section Event Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club Anthony Kirwin, Tel: 07887 780065 or email: arts16@btinternet.com

Oct 4th South West Section Event Bristish & Clifton Golf Club Adam Matthews Tel: 07732 503855 or email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
Oct 4th East of England Section Event South Kyme Golf Club Bruce Hicks Tel: 01205 359295 or 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks@gmail.com
Oct 4th South Coast Section Autumn Event Weymouth Golf Club Alex McCombie email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
Oct 8-9th BIGGA National Championship 2012 Irvine Golf Club Sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota. Contact Rachael Duff at BIGGA HQ 01347 833800 option 3 or email rachael@bigga.co.uk
Oct 10th North East Autumn Section Event Tyneside Golf Club Jimmy Richardson Tel: 0191 413 5232 or mobile: 07500 528542 or Email: james@chardens21@btinternet.com
Oct 11th Midland Region - Whitnash Inter Section Golf Day Greenhills Valley Golf Club Sandra Raper Tel: 07986 369966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
Oct 16th East Anglia Golf Day Ely City Golf Club Ian Willott Tel: 07929 205398 or Email: info@biggaestan- glia.co.uk
Oct 17th Northern Region Inter -Section Golf Day Blagney St Ives Golf Club Sandra Raper Tel: 07986 369966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
Oct 18th BIGGA & GCMA Educational Seminar Chipping Sodbury Golf Club Karen Drake, Wotton super Mare Golf Club, Email: wsgolfuk@euroturbroadband.com
Oct 18th Midland Section Event Druids Heath Golf Club Andrew Smith Email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
Oct 23rd East of Scotland NPCP Update Murrayfield Golf Club Edinburgh Stuart Ferguson Tel: 07961 630553 or Email: stufregj@btinternet.com
Oct 25th Mid Anglia Section Golf Day and AGM Verulam Golf Club Richard Saunders Tel: 07773 206553
I thought that I had reached an age when life slowed down and warm summer afternoons were spent sipping champagne on the lawn. No, at a time when I should relax I find that I am still lucky at lawn, decorating and writing next month’s article for this fine magazine. Sipping champagne is a pipe dream and will have to wait until my first harvest of grapes is picked, fermented, bottled, had its second fermentation, and left to age in my cellar. Of course, you’ve realised I am joking. I do not have a cellar and the garden shed will have to do.

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South West
I want to say a huge well done to all the support workers that were involved at Royal Lytham & St Annes for this year’s Open championship. During very tough times weather wise and with over 200 bunkers, you guys did it very well.

On Friday 10 August captain Wayne Vincent took his team to Royal Porthcawl GC, and this was unfortunately coming on the back of a defeat. Not playin’ just getting that part in early...the team travelled over the bridge and onto Porthcawl in high hopes! This being a very hot day, I hear that some of our guys left their clubs at home and thought their sun lounges would be a better option. I hate to say this, but we lost this very important fixture 4-2, however I have been promised this won’t be happening again next year.

I write this while watching the closing ceremony from London 2012, and it made me realise that as a nation we really do know how to put on a show. The opening ceremony was fantastic, during the games Great Britain were awesome, beating any previous medal count. I’m sure many of you spent hours watching the games, and found it equally motivating. With the games closing in such a great fashion, we came together as a nation. Very proud times!

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Essex
After a couple of months of inactivity in the section we are back with a vengeance. Tom Smith, Ben Scrivener and I went up to the Open Championship as part of the support team and what a time we had, late up early and to bed late but a feast of memories to stay with us for many a year.

The Olympics are a thing of the past, and what a joyous period it was, more medals than were expected and some surprises to boot.

Grass seems to keep growing and that dormant period around July, August has not materialised, at least for the time being the rain seems to have subsided.

We have just held our Summer Inter Club and National Qualifier, Rochford Hundred Golf Club was the venue and what a day they had, the course was set up by Head Greenkeeper, Dave Rand and his staff, comments such as fantastic were regularly heard and every one there thoroughly enjoyed the event. The sun shone and so did the golf as the results show.

Results for the day are as follows.

Division 1. 1st Antony Kirwin, 40 points. 2nd Douglas Fernie, 36 points. 3rd Boswell Bennett, 38 points.

Trade/Sponsors. 1st James Tuckwell, 35 points. Guest: Tony Rand, National Qualifier: Douglas Fernie

The next golf day is the Autumn Trophy at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club. It’s a great event, we come together as a section, fashion, we come together as a

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

Page 53
This month David updates us on how the UK’s Further Education Colleges once again have to cope with more funding cuts from the government.

The GTC is constantly monitoring the situation to ensure there is still access to specialist greenkeeping education and training courses for all levels of greenkeepers.

For many years the sports turf sector has relied on traditional land based colleges throughout Britain, to deliver a variety of education and training courses, all leading to the formal accredited qualifications.

The highly acclaimed Apprenticeship Scheme continues to provide the sector with many of today’s top Course Managers and with distance learning and an on-line Degree available, you might think our employers and greenkeepers are well set for the long term.

In terms of a suitable range of formal qualifications the UK is fortunate as there are the vocational formal qualifications the UK is well set for the various changes within the early nineties, to encourage employers and all levels of the greenkeepers are well set for the future efforts, delivery of training courses, all leading to the GTC Quality Assured Training Providers.

The GTC intends to work closely with them and to promote their courses and workshops to employers and all levels of greenkeepers. Clearly the Government’s policy of the early nineties, to encourage industries to become involved in vocational qualifications, required a total rethink by the colleges.

Some do promote, and still do promote, private companies and individuals who are totally committed to delivering quality education, training and qualifications for our sector.

The GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers, all dedicated through formal courses and informal workshops, are looking to serve our sector and we should look to support them. Many will remember when there were over thirty “GTC Approved Training Providers” offering greenkeeper training courses but following a 2010 review the GTC has currently seven Quality Assured Centres in England, two in Wales and two in Scotland.

In summary, the GTC are continually working with the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers. We want to ensure there are not only the formal qualifications and apprenticeship available but also short courses.

These are often the employers’ preferred training courses for in-staff not ready for a more formal full qualification e.g. Level 2, 3, HNC or Degree.
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The Centres have certainly tried their best to meet our industry’s request for flexibility for learners to gain access to formal certificates and qualifications.

They’ve featured the very popular delivery of qualifications for learners in their workplace, to the traditional part-time option, plus distance and online learning.

In recent years we have also seen several private companies enter into the delivery of greenkeeping training, hence, the GTC’s policy to introduce the Quality Assured Scheme of Centres and Training Providers.

Many readers will be aware of the various changes within further Education colleges in recent years.

Mergers, often prolonged and unsettling for the staff, have affected almost all parts of Britain and very often policy changes at a college has resulted in sports turf courses being subject to ongoing viability reviews.

Sadly for many friends working in the colleges, despite their best efforts, delivery of quality programmes has become increasingly difficult.

There are still colleges, private companies and individuals who are totally committed to delivering quality education, training and qualifications for our sector.

The GTC intends to work closely with them and to promote their courses and workshops to employers and all levels of greenkeepers.

Clearly the Government’s policy of the early nineties, to encourage industries to become involved in vocational qualifications, required a total rethink by the colleges.

Some did, and still do promote, manage and adapt to deliver quality programmes, but sadly many failed miserably in many sectors.

Fortunately many of today’s top Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers fully understand the range of courses and qualifications available.

As funding in Further Education colleges continues to be reduced, we as an industry have to work with these Centres to not only support them with students but to discuss the best options for them to deliver the various courses and qualifications.

Through the GTC’s employer representative bodies, we hear that the majority of golf club employers will pay for quality education and training as long as it is relevant to their staff and business development needs.

There is still Government funding available to specific age groups, plus approved courses and qualifications including the apprenticeship scheme and the colleges and private companies will continue to assess whatever funding support they have.

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Greens rolling

Like many turf maintenance operations, the rolling of putting greens has yo-yoed in and out of fashion over the years. As technology and the design of rollers have advanced from those used in years gone by, the rolling of golf greens has grown in popularity again. This is the result of the demand for consistently quicker greens, as well as the reduced risk of surface compaction and potential turf damage as a result of using modern rollers.

Rolling has a number of benefits in the preparation of golf greens. Both research trials and practical experience has shown that rolling putting surfaces leads to increased green speeds without having to reduce the height of cut and all the possible negative effects associated with excessively low mowing heights. In addition to the benefits of increased green speed, rolling also tends to improve surface smoothness, as any small inconsistencies associated with immediate turf surface are ironed out.

However, there are a number of pieces in the rolling jigsaw that are still missing. Whilst we understand that rolling increases green speed and smoothness, we don't have any consistent data on the optimum conditions for rolling. It is hard to imagine that the conditions under which rolling is carried out will not significantly affect the end result.

The key questions that we currently don't have scientifically rigorous answers to include:

- How do ground conditions, especially soil moisture content, influence the effect, the magnitude and longevity of effect of rolling?
- Does the optimum window for rolling, in terms of ground conditions, vary based on construction type (sand-based greens versus natural soil greens)?
- What effect does moisture pressure on the leaf blade at the time of rolling have on the resultant green speed and smoothness? Does rolling when the leaf blade is moist affect the longevity of any improvements in green speed?
- What is the effect of different roller types under any given set of conditions? In other words, do different types of roller perform at their best under slightly different conditions or is their performance similar under all conditions?
- Does the use of plant growth regulators with an alternating rolling/mowing regime lead to reduced plant stress, whilst producing the same, if not improved, level of performance at a reduced cost?
- How consistent are the effects of rolling, in terms of surface performance improvement, and what factors influence these effects?

If we could answer these questions we'd certainly be in a better position to optimise rolling regimes to get the best out of this important maintenance operation.

One of the interesting questions that often gets asked is which roller is best, the dedicated ride on roller or the triple mounted vibratory roller. From experience, it seems that both types of roller can be highly effective but differences may exist in their optimum window of use, especially on different green constructions.

This is why it is important that we investigate which factors need to be taken into account when it comes to rolling. It is that rolling can have real benefits on playing surface performance. The evidence is out there on many golf courses and in both the nett and gross categories, there will be prizes for winners of handicap producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Teams Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.
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Rolling has a number of benefits in the preparation of golf greens. Both research trials and practical experience has shown that rolling putting surfaces leads to increased green speeds without having to reduce the height of cut and all the possible negative effects associated with extremely low mowing heights. In addition to the benefits of increased green speed, rolling also tends to improve surface smoothness, as any small inconsistencies associated with immediate turf surface are ironed out.

If the desired green speeds can be achieved through a combination of mowing and rolling, it is possible that the frequency of cut could be reduced. Some of the existing research on greens rolling has demonstrated that alternating between rolling and mowing can lead to speed improvements without the need to mow every day.

However, there are a number of pieces in the rolling jigsaw that are still missing. Whilst we understand that rolling increases green speed and smoothness, we don’t have any consistent data on the optimum conditions for rolling. It is hard to imagine that the conditions under which rolling is carried out will not significantly affect the end result.

The key questions that we currently don’t have scientifically rigorous answers on include:
- How do ground conditions, especially soil moisture content, influence the effect, the magnitude and longevity of effect of rolling?
- Does the optimum window for rolling, in terms of ground conditions, vary based on construction type (natural versus natural turf greens)?
- What effect does moisture presence on the leaf blade at the time of rolling have on the resultant green speed and smoothness? Does rolling when the leaf blade is moist affect the longevity of any improvements in green speed?
- What is the effect of different roller types under any given set of conditions? In other words, do different types of roller perform at their best under slightly different conditions or is their performance similar under all conditions?
- Does the use of plant growth regulators with an alternating rolling/mowing regime lead to reduced plant stress, whilst producing the same, if not improved, level of performance at a reduced cost?

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This is why it is important that we can investigate which factors need to be taken into account when it comes to optimising rolling regimes.

If I can leave you with one key message from this column, it is that rolling can have real benefits on playing surface performance. The evidence is out there on many golf courses that rolling can improve the playing surface performance of greens.

We require universally applicable advice on the appropriate conditions and the effect that conditions have on rolling efficacy. This can be achieved by investigating, under controlled field trial conditions with an intensive testing programme, the influence of various environmental conditions on greens rolling. It would also allow a thorough examination of the effect of rolling on both the smoothness and true green speed of a ball roll.

This kind of information can be gained for individual courses if enough monitoring is carried out to identify when the rolling is most effective. However, this is not really an option for many golf courses. We require universally applicable advice on the appropriate conditions and the effect that conditions have on rolling efficacy. This can be achieved by investigating, under controlled field trial conditions with an intensive testing programme, the influence of various environmental conditions on greens rolling. It would also allow a thorough examination of the effect of rolling on both the smoothness and true green speed of a ball roll.

If we had more information we could give better advice to help greenkeepers make more informed decisions on when and how much rolling they do.

The quest to find BIGGA’s best golfer returns in 2012 when the National Championship moves to The Irvine Golf Club, Bogside, Ayrshire, on October 8-9, 2012 (Visit the club website at www.theirvingolfclub.co.uk)

Fill in the form below to book your spot

BIGGA National Championship 2012

The Irvine Golf Club, Ayrshire, on October 8-9

Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £695 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name...................................................................................
Address ...........................................................................
Post Code ........................................................................

Card number........................................................................
Start Date .................................................Expiry Date ...........

Last 3 security digits..........................
Issue No. (Switch / Delta only)..........................

Signature ........................................................................
Membership No............................................................
Handicap ........................................................................
BIGGA Section............................................................
Golf Club ........................................................................

Payment method (please tick)
- I enclose my cheque made payable to BIGGA Ltd value £695
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £695

Deadline for entry is 11th September 2012.

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Back in time looks back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 is a landmark year, being the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. Each month we usually look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred. In this special feature, however, we are focusing just on the history of October's National Championship, from its conception in 1987, to the present day.

Not only in 2012 a milestone as we celebrate 25 years of BIGGA, and the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, it also marks a quarter of a century of the BIGGA National Championship. This month’s ‘Back in time’ focuses on the competition’s longevity...

October 1987 was the month of Michael Fish’s notoriously inaccurate statement “there will be no hurricane” – hours before a devastating storm which brought down trees across the UK.

That month was to see Greenkeeper International graphically illustrated this, featuring a photograph of a partially flooded course and a large tree lying horizontal close to the green.

Fortunately, the weather abstained for the inaugural event – then called the BIGGA Annual Tournament – at Ventum Golf Club in St Albans, and was proclaimed a “spectacular success.”

The tournament review stated: “More than seventy greenkeepers turned out over three days to take part over a course kept in fine form by head greenkeeper Geoff Smith and his staff.”

Black and white images show “some of the competitors and their wives” enjoying the sunshine in front of the clubhouse.

By 1990 the tournament had moved to Addington Palace Golf Club, near Croydon, and Kubota, will be held at Irvine Bogside.

As the years have rolled by the tournament has retained its hue of popularity and prominence.

2010's tournament took place at Grange Park, on the 478 yard 5th hole and his 4-iron was pinpoint accurate.

As the years have rolled by the tournament has retained its hue of popularity and prominence.

The 20th event was held across two venues – Dundonald Links and Kilmarnock Barassie, with David Simpson from Crieff Golf Club earning the title of BIGGA National Champion.

As the years have rolled by the tournament has retained its hue of popularity and prominence.

The turn of the century saw ‘The Hayter Challenge’ – celebrated in 1997, and all attendees complimented Head Greenkeeper David Spurdon on the outstandingly prepared course.

However, this was totally overshadowed by the tragic news just days later that David had died in a shooting accident on the course.

The turn of the century saw ‘The Hayter Challenge’ – celebrated in 1997, and all attendees complimented Head Greenkeeper David Spurdon on the outstandingly prepared course.

The chariots were blown hard and the Lancs course was baring its teeth, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, near Croydon.

Assistant at Addington Palace Golf Club, near Croydon, kept his cool and carefully two putted the final hole for a single shot victory and the biggest win of his golfing career.

For this year's Open Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, near Croydon.

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BIGGA National Championship Special

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Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by?
Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century, but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman, elliott.edgare@hotmail.co.uk

Survival of the fittest

The BIGGA National Championship 2011 was sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota

As you will have seen in the last issue, the club celebrates its 125th anniversary so it should be a particularly special couple of days - keep an eye out for the November issue to find out the winner of the coveted prize.

To apply for 2012 See previous page (57)

BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT . . . BIGGA
David Wood's 61 proves too hot to handle

The BIGGA National Championship 2011 is sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota
Green innovation

Golf courses are facing challenges on three fronts – climate change, difficult economic climate, and environmental pressures. Selecting the right products that can stand up to these challenges is key. With this in mind, Lindum Turf has developed a range of high quality products to suit the particular needs of golf courses with a focus on innovation in grass technology.

CHOICE OF TEES

With the renovation season fast approaching, Lindum can supply a choice of tees: green tees to suit your course sand preference. LT4 Smooth Staked Tees is a high quality mixture of a fine bladed cultivar of smooth stalked meadow grass, with fine textured turf, combining fine appearance with hard wear and recovery. LT5 Rye Tees is a hard wearing mix combining the repair and recovery of wear tolerant ryegrasses with a dense smooth staked meadow grass/fescue base.

SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHING NEW GREENS

New greens can fail to establish successfully because of soil particle size incompatibility. Lindum has developed several ways to combat this and can supply Washed turf or green turf grown on a USGA spec Rootzone. Both avoid the development of a layer that inhibits root growth and water percolation, leading to more successful establishment.

GO WILD!

More and more golf courses are recognising their contribution to the environment and planting natural wildflower areas to create interest, attract wildlife and give your round pleasure. Lindum Wildflower Meadow Turf produces an instant wildflower area and is easy to establish – ideal for enhancing biodiversity on the course.

NO MORE MUDDY WALKWAYS

Stabilise high traffic areas with Lindum Lok-turf - a hard wearing mix of ryegrass and smooth stalked meadow grass, growing in a fibre reinforced rootzone. Lindum Lok-turf provides superior reinforcement to reduce the impact of truffles and golf shoes in all weather.

Contact us on 01904 448675 for technical specifications of the full Lindum Golf Turf range or visit our website www.turf.co.uk