Unfortunately due to work commitments I was unable to attend the Scottish Conference, by all accounts I missed out on a very good day with some great topics, well done to all involved with a maximum turnout on the day showing how highly this event is held in the greenskeeping calendar each year. I would like to welcome and introduce Janie Martin (Gifford GC) as my guest speaker and look forward to working with Janie over the next few years. Various events took place over our section over the winter with a course section at Mearfield prior to The Open this year, and we are also looking at looking to get a get together at Musgrave Raiches with the possible date of May 24, first race at 6.15pm. By the time this report goes to publish the other sections will be on our screens with the golf world expecting all the golf courses to resemble the magnificent Augusta track, a thought for the poor greenskeepers fighting the elements - snow, rain and cold wind others wish they had.

Good wishes to Alan Lawrie who has taken over as Head Greenkeeper at Royal Musselburgh GC - the section wishes you well Alan in your new position.

We had a good response for our spring outing to Carluke on 17 April, entries close on 11 April and a report will appear in the May edition as well as on our website, www.bigcagreenkeepers.com. The cars parked in the section, over 80 have not supplied their home address. As this is the main method of communicating with members and other events 30% of members are missing out. 

Section Notes

EAST

Congratulations to Stephen Jack who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Pitfourie GC. Stephen, who comes from Leuchars in Fife, started his career as an apprentice at St Andrews before moving to Loch Lomond GC. He then moved to England and worked in Buckinghamshire and other courses in the London area before deciding to move back to Scotland.

Also new to the area is James Lindsay, the new Course Manager at Stirling GC who took up his position a few months back. Welcome to the Central Section to both of them. Congratulations also to Richard Call of Dunfermline GC who got married in Lapland at the beginning of March. As I write this you could have stayed in Fife and got no more wet snow.

The Pairs competition is up and running again with over 20 teams entered - an increase on an increase again from last year. There are a few new ones this time round so should be a good competition again.

For the spring outing is at Carluke on 17 April, entries close on 11 April and a report will appear in the May edition as well as on our website, www.bigcagreenkeepers.com. The cars parked in the section, over 80 have not supplied their home address. As this is the main method of communicating with members and other events 30% of members are missing out.

Section Notes

NORTHERN

Congratulations to Michael Gunn Deputy Head at Tynehead JC and Ashley Marshall assistant greenskeeper at Matfen Hall who have been chosen for the Open Support Team. Also well done to Craig Kileen Deputy Head at Prestwick GC who will be on the Support Team for the EMGA/Watsonm in May good luck to you all.

Plenty of news from Clove House to write about, four staff have recently completed formal qualifications and many more are currently undertaking either Level 2 or Level 3 in Sportsturf. Deputy Head James Parker at the Pairs competition is to be held at Ornmald golf club on Monday 1 July with a 10am tee time. He found it increasingly difficult to arrange the fixture list as golf clubs understandably don’t want to give prime tee slots to courses that are also competing in the amateur championship. The North West V North Wales match is on Friday 31 May at Haydock Park golf club (TBC) I will be looking for a team to play in this very enjoyable fixture. The cricket croxton and the North Wales section is at Ashley park on 29th June contact Nick Gray for details. The Birt trophy and AGM will be held at Wigan GC on 12 September 2013.

From time to time I get asked to try and arrange training courses, recently we arranged one for operating excavators if you think you may be interested please contact me.

I leave all the rest for how if you have any interest of our members please send it to me and I will let you know of any news to no matter how big small.

Robert Patterson got in touch with us about working with Jamie over the new head at Close House, it’s his first tee in four or five years but he is looking to do a very good day with some great weather.

In March. As I write this you could walk at Muirfield prior to The Open proper. Good to hear from John Robertson from Aitkens Gardens (only two in Scotland) for 26 golfers (well 25 golfers and one for operating excavators please send it to me and I will forward it on to you).

The AGM will be held at Ponteland GC who will put it in the magazine for you please send it to me.

We have the spring outing at Bochannan Castle golf club 25 April courtesy of Ronnie Mills and his council, secretaries match at Douglas Park golf club on 5 May, and a football match on Sunday 28 April at Fir Hill against a select team.

Congratulations to Gary Doers who has secured the job at Crow wood golf club. Gary has been after Ralston golf club but moved off to pastures new, we wish him well.

The site visit to Loch Lomond has been cancelled as David Cole would prefer to conduct the tour at a more beneficial time for him and the club. David feels he can deliver a better talk when his workload is slightly reduced at the present time all guns are blazing to get things ready for the start of the season. November is off the agenda date and members will be informed well in advance, thanks to David and Loch Lomond.

Finally John Robertson of Attenborough is taking early retirement after 26 years with the company, as part of this being due to ill health, John covered the East Section more than the West but I had bumped him into a few occasions at the Scottish section outside events. John is a valuable member of the KK team and I wish him well in his new life.

I would like to thank Barry and Susan Benny who have been helping us with our meals again this year, their hard work is greatly appreciated by all who visit.

NORTHERN

As many of you guys will remember John Croxton, long serving course manager at Pannal Golf club and father in law to the late John Croxton, Tony Smith and Tracey Smith. John has been appointed to working with Jamie over the new head at Close House, it’s his first tee in four or five years but he is looking to do a very good day with some great weather.

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lighted the association’s vision to improve communication between HQ and its members and to encourage the development of greengrass. We also plan to further improve the level of education by getting BBGA members and to make the association a ‘must join’ organisation for all. It enabled those who attended to engage with Jim and the BBGA team and discuss issues and concerns that they had.

The association’s strategy is changing, reflecting the different demands that the industry is putting on its members and the times, get on board or get left behind.

So I’m just over a week away from my Brighton Marathon adventure. As my challenge with the times, get on board or get left behind. BIGGA is moving to put on it. BIGGA member a ‘must join’ to all of our sponsors throughout the industry. And what a great picture it is.

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NATIONAL GREENKEEPER SURVEY

As we move into April hopefully spring will get underway as the really good weather kicks in and courses get back to normal following the washout that happened in March. The season’s first golf event will take place in a few weeks so please see the website for application forms, dates and times. An email will be sent out nearer the time so please make sure your contact details are up to date etc.

Outlook

The golf season is starting to get underway with most courses now back to normal play. The grass is of a better moulding quality due to the nice weather and conditions over the last few weeks. As we move into April the club will be in a great position to get the season off to a good start.

International Golf

The Ryder Cup has been played in Europe recently and it is now time to look forward to the next big event, the Olympic Games which are being held in Tokyo in 2020. This is a great opportunity for golf to showcase itself to the world and to be seen as a sport of equals with many other sports.

Local Golf

The club is looking forward to the start of the new season with the hope that we will have good weather conditions for the start of the season. We are looking forward to the start of the new season with the hope that we will have good weather conditions for the start of the season.

Change

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Change
**BIGGA welcomes the following new members**

**Scotland**
- Jamie (Chalky) White, Lothian Green Drive Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Mark Watson, Nairn Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Nic Dolman, St. Andrews Links Trust, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Steven Cockshott, Headingley Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper

**Northern Region**
- Stephen Galloway, Lees Hall Golf Club, Head Greenkeeper
- Jason Clarke, Altrincham Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper

**Midland Region**
- Richard B Davies, Beverley Golf Centre, Director of Grounds
- Philip饺, Wrexham Golf Club, Greenkeeper
- Steve Warren, Forest of Arden Golf Club, Greenkeeper

**South East Region**
- Luke Groutwell, Bramley Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- David Raper, Easingwold Golf Club, Greenkeeper
- Kevin Fowler, Flaxby Park Golf & Country Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Lewis Valentine, Moray Golf Club, Greenkeeper

**South West & Wales**
- Mike Jackson, Carmarthen Golf Club, Head Greenkeeper
- Tom Bateman, Drayton Park Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- James Richardson, Newport Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Nick Jones, Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper

**Overseas**
- Emma Scott, Glenlyon, Head Greenkeeper
- Adam Matthews, Ufford Park Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- James Richardson, Newport Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper

**Around The Green**

**Bradley Sim**, Cape Kidnappers Golf Course, Iceland
- Tryggvi Olver Gunnarsson, Oddur Golf Club, Greenkeeper
- Tom Easterbrook, Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, Greenkeeper
- David Cameron, Wentworth Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Keegan Powell, Sunningdale Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper

**Regional Greenkeepers**
- Keith Pooley, Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, Greenkeeper
- Harry James, Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Tony Gadd

**Co-positions**
- Andy Smith, Bishopston Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Daniel Quinn, Woburn Golf & Country Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Connor Bodman, Woburn Golf & Country Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Richard Sheldon, Stonebridge Golf Centre, Assistant Greenkeeper

**Greenkeepers**
- Harry Cannon, Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, Greenkeeper
- Daniel Chapman, SrUC (Elmwood), Student Assistant Greenkeeper
- Steven Grantham, Lees Hall Golf Club, Head Greenkeeper

**Assistant Greenkeepers**
- Andrew Cuffe, Lytham Green Drive Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Jaey Goodchild (07984422295) and keep the news coming in.

**Greenkeepers**
- Stephen Galloway, Lees Hall Golf Club, Head Greenkeeper
- Neil Armitage, Headingley Golf Club, Greenkeeper
- David Raper, Easingwold Golf Club, Greenkeeper

**Greenkeepers**
- Kevin Fowler, Flaxby Park Golf & Country Club, Assistant Greenkeeper
- Lewis Valentine, Moray Golf Club, Greenkeeper

**South Coast**

**South Wales**

- By Chris Sneddy and Chippenham Golf Club. All four presenters including myself, Jaime Acton, Ade Jackson and Stephen Jack who came down from Barry overcame heavy naps and a Chippenham-wide power outage to present our audience of nearly thirty four talks on a wide range of subjects that seemed to keep everyone at full attention. Personally I really enjoyed the experience and I am sure that Adam, Stephen and Jaime did too, well done to my co-presenters!

Coming up on Wednesday 24 April is the Am/Am at Minchinhampton Golf Club which will be in fine spring form, make sure that entries are in promptly as there is sure to be high demand on this event at a great club and venue. Following on, Wednesday 29 May is the Section v Sectionaries match at straming The Manor House, Castle Combe, that one is sure to be a cauldron of competition.

Finally a welcome to new section member Nigel Thompson of Cleve Hill Golf Club in Gloucestershire who has recently joined BIGGA, good to see new members coming in to see the benefits of the association.

Keep up the support, see you all at the upcoming Section days and keep the news coming in "Goodchild (07984422295) 
jgoodchild@bigga.com"

**SOuth Coast**

### Date Event Venue Contact
- **April 10th**
  - East Midland Section Spring Tournament Beedles Lake Golf Club
  - ALL WELCOME - Members and Non-members. Nick Miles Tel: 07842 960686
- **April 11th**
  - North West Section Spring Tournament Lytham Green Drive Golf Club
  - Phil Dewhurst Tel: 07768 180604
- **April 16th**
  - South Coast Section Spring Tournament Renesdy Oak Golf Club
  - Alex McCombie, Tel: 07561 001299 or Email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
- **April 17th**
  - North East Section Spring Tournament Hesworth Golf Club, Competition
  - Jimmy Richardson Tel: 07910 641745 or Email: jimmirichardson75@sky.com
- **April 17th**
  - East Anglia Section Golf Day
  - Ufford Park Golf Club
  - Ian Willet email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
- **April 23rd**
  - Scotland, East Section Outing
  - Seabouses Golf Club
  - John Young, Tel: 07776 242120 or Email: johnyoung@bigga.co.uk
- **April 23rd**
  - North West Section Spring Tournament
  - Bull Bay Golf Club
  - Carl Crocher, Tel: 07702 316886
- **April 24th**
  - South West Section Golf Day
  - Minchinhampton Golf Club
  - Adam Matthews, Tel: 07732 503855 or Email: adam.lnswaz@gmail.com
- **April 24th**
  - Northern Section Spring Tournament
  - Hornsea Golf Club
  - Andy Slingsby Tel: 01756 407867
- **April 24th**
  - South Wales Section Education Event
  - Royal Porthcawl Golf Club
  - Gareth Knight Tel: 07959 988512 Email: garethknight@bigga.com
- **April 25th**
  - South Wales Section Spring Tournament
  - Duff House Royal
  - Dale Robertson Tel: 07711 274525 or Email: dalementlorny@iol.com

**Diary of Events**

**Details of your Section’s forthcoming events in 2013 can be found here...**

**BIGGA Regional Conferences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Around The Green

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Graeme McGregor, SMU (Unlimited), Senior Head Greenkeeper, St Andrews Golf Club, Edinburgh. Contact: Graeme.McGregor@btinternet.com
Iceland
Peter H. Gudmundsson, Head Greenkeeper, Golf Club Torshavn, Faroe

Northern Region
Steven Cardham, Lee Hall Golf Club, Head Greenkeeper. Contact: steve.cardham@bigga.co.uk
Sarah Major, Woodland Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper. Contact: sarah.major@bigga.co.uk
Mr Jeff Capito, Shipton Lodge Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper. Contact: jeff.capito@bigga.co.uk
Sue Arnold, Manor Park Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper. Contact: sue.arnold@bigga.co.uk

Midland Region
Richard Stones, Shrewsbury Golf Club Centre, Assistant Greenkeeper. Contact: richard.stones@bigga.co.uk
Philip Clarke, Myddle College, Student. Contact: philip.clarke@myddle.ac.uk
Steve James, Old Belvedere Golf Club, Student. Contact: steve.james@bigga.co.uk
Stephen Duddy, Wroxall Golf & Country Club, Student. Contact: stephen.duddy@bigga.co.uk

South East Region
Luke Gunnell, Brasted Green Golf Club, Head Greenkeeper. Contact: luke.gunnell@bigga.co.uk
Mark Crickmore, Wayland Golf Club (The Woads), Assistant Greenkeeper. Contact: mark.crickmore@bigga.co.uk
Paul Tomlinson, Ratcliffe Golf Club, Assistant Greenkeeper. Contact: paul.tomlinson@bigga.co.uk
Gavin Sharp, Roehampton University, Student. Contact: gavin.sharp@bigga.co.uk

South West & Wales

SOUTH WEST

Maybe I spoke too soon last month but that silver of spring that was on the horizon has vanished. A few superlatives come to mind: arctic blast… brown mounds… all I know is that when I arrived at the shed this morning it was -5C and that was before the wind chill.

Any of you who decided to go with an early season cover cropping programme must surely be in position and poised for soil temperatures to rise and get the season under way, it is all about positioning.

A successful day was had by all at the recent presentation and course walk event hosted by Chris Snell and Chippenham Golf. All four presenters including myself, Jamie Acton, Andrew Green and Stephen Jack who came down from Surrey overrode heavy neds and a Chippenham-wide power outage to present our audience of nearly thirty four talks on a wide range of subjects that seemed to keep everyone at full attention. Personally I really enjoyed the experience and I am sure that Adam, Stephen and Jaime did too, well done to my co-presenters!

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Keep up the support, see you all at the upcoming Section days and keep the news coming in. Gaye Goodchild (07984422295)

SOUTH WALES

With our weather patterns trying their best to destroy all our hard work and plan Chuck Golf we have a rugby team to be proud of even if it is kick and clip (Mr Keynes). Our biggest ever victory over England has made my last few days visiting my English golf club much enjoyable...

Our Spring seminar will again take place on April 24 at Royal Porthcawl GC sponsored by Countrywide Amenity, confirmed speakers are Steve Chappell Gleenages, Mark Hunt Headland Amenity, Tiffins Turf, Sports Metals and Ecoroofbanker. A great line up, I’m sure you all will agree, booking forms should now have been received but for extra bookings please contact Gareth Knight on 07995 988512.

Our spring tournament should have taken place at Fairwood Park by the time you read this so please read next month’s article for the results just before I leave congratulations must go out to Jim Jenkins the new Head Greenkeeper at Carnarvon GC welcome back mate we wish you all the very best.

Keep enjoying the spring guys

Peter H.
This month David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, looks at how modern technology has opened up education for all levels of greenkeepers – but have not replace the tried and tested traditional methods of learning.

For some centres and students the traditional methods of delivering courses towards the recognised qualifications are still the preferred option but more and more employers and students are considering the “on the job” delivery option. Either route to learn is fine by the GTC and we are very pleased as student registration numbers are still increasing annually – especially the number of students.

The GTC is also pleased to report the steady increase in student registrations on higher education courses, this again is mainly where online learning is a feature of the delivery model offered by the Centre.

Education and Training from Apprentice to the Degree, all with Government Accreditation, is a model Britain should be proud of and the students who have progressed through their careers by both vocational and HE courses and qualifications are now not only managing golf courses in Britain but across the globe.

IGBGA’s bulletin board is another example of how members across the world help share their experiences and knowledge which is a tremendous resource.

I know for some nothing will replace the classroom with the hard copy books and handouts and the GTC fully supports that tried and tested method but nowadays the classroom can come to you.

Finally the GTC has reviewed all of its learning materials, which were originally written by special- ist subject authors in 2003/4, and shortly to become available again in PDF format. A list of subjects, 18 chapters in total, and the authors will shortly appear on the GTC’s website. This review project has been part funded by The NHA.

Such has been the demand for these learning resources from across the globe, as used by the GTC’s QA Centres, we have commissioned an additional chapter on the development and establishment of warm season grasses. All chapters are based on best practice and principles of golf course maintenance and management and more importantly available to everybody. Our thanks to The R&A and all the core funding bodies for their continued support to the work of the GTC. IGBGA, England Golf, Scottish Golf Union, Golf Union of Wales, The PGA and The PGA European Tour.

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I was invited to speak at the recent FEGGA Conference in Zurich and the exchange of experience and knowledge amongst delegates was, as with any gathering in our sector, so productive and we can all keep in touch so easily using modern technology.

Many international delegates from golf developing countries are saving many trees as paper is no longer required as some Centres now have online versions available.

The GTC’s Quality Assured Centres are all developing various learning platforms using the very latest technology and thankfully we are seeing many more as paper is getting replaced by online learning. The demand for hard copies of GTC and BIGGA publications is reducing as some Centres now have online versions available.

BIGGA’s bulletin board is another example of how members across the world help share their experiences and knowledge which is a tremendous resource.

I know for some nothing will replace the classroom with the hard copy books and handouts and the GTC fully supports that tried and tested method but nowadays the classroom can come to you.

Finally the GTC has reviewed all of its learning materials, which were originally written by specialist subject authors in 2003/4, and these are shortly to become available again in PDF format. A list of subjects, 18 chapters in total, and the authors will shortly appear on the GTC’s website. This review project has been part funded by The R&A.

Such has been the demand for these learning resources from across the globe, as used by the GTC’s QA Centres, we have commissioned an additional chapter on the development and establishment of warm season grasses. All chapters are based on best practice and principles of golf course maintenance and management and more importantly available to everybody. Our thanks to The R&A and all the core funding bodies for their continued support to the work of the GTC. BIGGA, England Golf, Scottish Golf Union, Golf Union of Wales, The PGA and the PGA European Tour.

This is a coming together of the many bodies who have some role to play in promoting the game, maintaining standards and off the golf course, coaching and in the case of the GTC ensuring employers and greenkeepers have the best information available to educate and train their staff.

All of the GTC’s representative bodies, Associates and Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers have exciting websites which can be viewed via www.the-gtc.co.uk.

One recent additional website offers employers and greenkeepers access to training courses, workshops and seminars dates and venues through an online calendar.

England Golf has engaged many golfing bodies involved in organising training courses and www.golfeducation.co.uk is well worth a visit. All of the contributors including GTC and BIGGA will be posting all events as they are developed.

The GTC’s Quality Assured Centres are all developing various learning platforms using the very latest technology and thankfully we are seeing many more as paper is getting replaced by online learning. The demand for hard copies of GTC and Groundsmanship Training Manuals is reducing as some Centres now have online versions available.

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained.

CROSSWORD

Across
1 Author of the campus novel Lucky Jim (8,4)
10 Study of speech processes (5)
11 Japanese martial art whose name means way of the sword (5)
12 Metrical foot of one short syllable followed by a longer one (6)
13 By population, the world’s largest city (8)
15 MP elected Labour leader after the death of John Smith (4,5)
16 Rhotacism-based nickname of a popular TV presenter (5)
18 Sequence of numbers identifying a domain name (5)
20 In a similar manner (6)
22 Music (and its dance) originated by Enrique Jorrin (5,5)
24 Model of excellence (5)
25 Imaginary instrument (6)
26 Buckinghamshire’s ‘new town’, designated this in January 1967 (6,6)

Down
2 Incassotors distributed (9)
3 Goddess of the earth in Greek mythology (4)
4 Final performance, swan song (4,6)
5 Canadian territory, focus of which the EU and NATO have headquarters (7)
6 Premiership football club embattled Gorton) in 1880 (10,4)
7 Music streaming service that every row, every column and every box shape contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.
8) Which striker scored a crucial late winner as Aston Villa beat QPR 3-2 in the Premier League?
9) Which football club play their home games at Griffin Park... which has a pub in all four corners of the ground?

Quick ’Nine Hole’ Quiz
1) Which tennis player won the men’s tournament at Indian Wells?
2) Which Indian international cricketer recently scored the fastest ever Test century by a debutant against Australia?
3) Nigel Worthington was recently appointed manager at which football club?
4) Name the venues for the five Ashes Tests in England later this summer,
5) Which sportman tweeted “The UK weather is 9 months of winter and 3 months of bad weather”.

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every box shape contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.
Blinder Bunker goes from strength to strength

It has been an exciting year for the Sunningdale based Blinder Bunker goes from strength to strength. It has been an exciting year for the Sunningdale based
company going from strength to strength with bunker installations and receiving great feedback from course managers across the country and Europe who have been dealing with difficult conditions and still experiencing perfect conditions in their blinder bunkers, that rake up, as if no rain has been falling.

More and more clubs are now returning for further installations of the bunker lining system that uses Environmentally approved rubber, graded to bridge with sand and mixed with a special binding agent to provide a strong flexible base able to withstand golf club strikes without damage to the liner, club or player which no other liner can boast! The liner also has incredible drainage qualities and longevity.

The launch of the new Blinder Eco path has also been exciting and demand has been driven by course managers’ wanting a natural but hard-wearing solution for pathways that blend perfectly into the environment. The coated shredded rubber comes in a variety of colours that can be used alone or in a blend. The rubber is mixed with a binding agent and forms a hard wearing, wash free path resembling wood mulch, but without the negative effects.

Blinder bunker liner and Blinder Eco path are installed by Pro Fusion Environmental a leading golf course contractor, with a wide variety of experience in all aspects of golf course construction.

Blinder has been designed specifically to deal with all maintenance problems experienced by the course managers / superintendent’s and the inconsistency issues that many bunker installations of the bunker lining system that uses Environmentally approved rubber, graded to bridge with sand and mixed with a special binding agent to provide a strong flexible base able to withstand golf club strikes without damage to the liner, club or player which no other liner can boast! The liner also has incredible drainage qualities and longevity.

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The bunker lining solution from strength to strength, call 01344 621654, or for more information please visit the website: www.blinder.com
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