It’s no surprise that Revolution is trusted by so many turf professionals around the world. It’s the only soil surfactant that goes beyond water repellency issues, providing comprehensive water management and plant health benefits as well.

Revolution’s patented formulation balances air and water in the soil profile, leading to a better root system and improved soil health. By maximizing the potential of your growing environment, Revolution helps turf function more efficiently and perform at consistently higher levels, even under stress.

Try it — and see the benefits for yourself.

What will be the hot news spreading around the show?

JOIN THE TURF CLUB

Jack Sims, assistant greenkeeper at the Wentworth Club, has started The West London Turf Club—a series of sessions where greenkeepers learn and chat about hot topics in the industry. The first club that GI knows of was set up by Anthony Stockwell at The London Club. Jack is now urging other BIGGA members to get involved.

Jack said: “I started my NVQ2 in sports turf management while working full-time at Ealing Golf Club under Greg Evans. Throughout my studies I felt a little behind compared to some of the other young greenkeepers, but once it was completed I went on to start my NVQ3, again with Distance learning.

“I still felt I was missing out on that ‘classroom effect’ that I witnessed at school, where people would ask questions that others hadn’t even thought to ask, debate different theories and come to a solution as a group.

“Greg then told me of a ‘Turf Club’ that was being advertised on the BIGGA bulletin boards at The London Club. I knew this was what I was looking for, other greenkeepers in the same situation, going through some of the basics, as well as more advanced areas and some of the hot topics of the time.

“In January 2011, I took part in my first ever turf club at The London Club. The organiser Anthony Stockwell gave a great presentation on Creeping bent grass. This was followed by an exercise in which we broke down into smaller teams and discussing the pros and cons of different grass species.

“A month or so later I was stood in front of a screen, talking about ‘TurfGrass for putting Greens’, in a room full of other greenkeepers at Ealing Golf Club. The day was a success so it was announced we would be doing it again the following month at Richmond Golf Club, with a new topic. This was the start of ‘The West London Turf Club’.

“We are still going strong, and with each one, new faces appear. I have learnt a lot, and met a lot of new people. I would urge greenkeepers up and down the country to get together and do something similar.”

The next meetings of the West London turf club are; 9 January at Richmond GC, 6 February at Ealing GC, 6 March at Richmond GC and 3 April at Ealing GC. For more information contact @jackims1991 on twitter or jackims91@hotmail.co.uk, or contact Greg Evans at @gregevansmg on twitter or gregevansmg@gmail.com
Chairman’s Word
National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

BTME will kick-start 2013

Firstly, I hope you and your families had a very enjoyable festive period, and you’re ready for a positive 2013… and BTME!

BTME is a huge highlight of the year for me, as I’m sure it is for many of you. I’m sure you’ve all made arrangements for accommodation and what you’ll be doing while you’re there. If you truly have left it until the last minute, get it sorted now!

At the time of writing there were still places available on our superb education workshops and seminars – visit the BIGGA website or btme.org.uk and if you’re lucky you may snap a place up.

I’ve attended every single day of every BTME since it began and can honestly say I’ve thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

I’ve visited as a delegate, Section committee member, Regional/ National Board member, Vice-Chairman and am proud that this year I will be representing the Association as Chairman, cutting the ribbon to officially open the exhibition.

I will of course be attending the AGM. It will be held on the Wednesday day of the exhibition at 5.15pm in the Queen’s Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

I really would encourage you to come along, it’s an opportunity to find out more about our future plans and the direction we intend the Association to be heading in.

Our CEO Jim Croxton will make a presentation outlining the main strategies for BIGGA over the next year or two and will concentrate, I am sure, on the role that the current membership has to play in helping drive the Association and the profession of greenkeeping forward.

As usual he and I will be available for questions thereafter.

January is of course a time for looking forward to the New Year, and I feel that this year it’s more important than ever to be positive and really go for it in 2013. We all know 2012 was a tough year, and no-one was immune from the appalling wet weather.

As I write this in mid-December, my golf course, Tresisea, has been closed for weeks. It was also closed for a period in summer, and all in all it’s been closed for longer in 2012 than it ever has been in the past. Our sewage pipe has also overflowed twice due to the wet weather, and you can imagine the problems that caused (or maybe you shouldn’t).

I have great sympathy for all greenkeepers who are giving their all in these conditions.

As ever the standard of applications was incredibly high and I know the successful candidates will represent the Association with distinction while having an amazing opportunity to improve their greenkeeping knowledge and network.

Welcome to Harrogate.

Regards, Tony

BTME always helps the industry come together and I fully expect this to be the case again this year
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Of course you can plan for the worst weather and react - up to a point - but there can’t be many industries where things are so beyond your control as they have been this year.

To keep our heads above water (sorry about the pun!) we need to pull together, and if we do we’ll emerge refreshed, able to give golfers the courses they expect and hopefully looking forward to a fine and dry spring.

BTME always helps the industry come together and fully expect this to be the case again this year.

I would like to close by congratulating the ten BIGGA members who have been selected to form the Deligation to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month.

As ever the standard of applications was incredibly high and I know the successful candidates will represent the Association with distinction while having an amazing opportunity to improve their greenkeeping knowledge and network.

See you in Harrogate.

Regards, Tony
The jingle bells have been put away, Santa’s elves have gone on holiday and we’ve sung Auld Lang Syne so that can only mean that it’s 2013. Happy New Year from all of us in the Learning and Development Department, may it be happy and healthy and prosperous. You all know what January means in the greenkeeping calendar – BTME, and more specifically for L&AD, the Continue to Learn education programme.

Continue to Learn

The Continue to Learn programme this year offers more than 190 hours of education with subjects ranging from IT skills to the A, B, C’s of Putting Green Maintenance. The education offerings range from 30 minutes in length to 2 days and everything in between. You can view the full programme on the BTME website www.btme.org.uk.

Our American friends, Thom Nikolai from Michigan State University (aka The Doctor of Green Speed) and Curtis Tyrell MG, CGCS from Medinah Golf & Country Club in Chicago will both be featuring on the education programme, discussing subjects including the Ryder Cup and putting green speed.

Have you pre-booked your place at the seminars? As a BIGGA member you have the opportunity to guarantee your seat for the seminars that you want to attend. 70 vouchers have been made available for each of the 28 seminars on offer. The remaining 40-50 seats will be available on a first come, first serve basis as in previous years.

Please remember that if you have pre-booked vouchers they will need to be exchanged for a ticket at least one hour before the seminar takes place. You can exchange your vouchers in the Queen’s Suite of Harrogate International Centre. Bookings can be made through the website, by calling Rachael on 01347 833800 (option 3) or completing the booking form in the Continue to Learn brochure. The closing date for bookings is Friday 1 January 2013.

We look forward to seeing you all in Harrogate.

BIGGA James Bond Evening

If you haven’t planned your Thursday night entertainment for BTME why not join BIGGA at The James Bond Evening? Held at The Old Swan Hotel from 7.00pm you will be treated to all things related to Bond, James Bond. Tickets are £25.00 each and include a drink on arrival, dinner and casino chips.

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BIGGA Stand – B23

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• Membership and Merchandise
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We will also have information on our Accident and Health Insurance. The insurance provides cover for accidental bodily injury which results in death, loss of limbs or sight, hearing or speech, permanent disability or temporary disability. There are additional payments for medical expenses, funeral expenses, hospitalisation, bodily injury resulting in a coma, retraining and relatives travel expenses.

Temporary total disability is a weekly compensation resulting from bodily injury which temporar-ily prevents you from carrying out the whole of your occupational duties, e.g. you may have an acci-dent whilst playing football which means you are unable to go to work, or amount of £50 (increased in 2012 to £35), please note there is no amount payable for the first 4 weeks.

For personal accident insurance. You can gain access to the Members area of the BIGGA website and the BIGGA stand during the show.

Personal Accident Insurance Cover for FULL Members

As part of the membership ben-eﬁts BIGGA cover all full members for personal accident insurance. This means that if any full member has an accident, at work, at home, or even playing sport and is off work through that injury they can poten-tially claim through the personal accident insurance.

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Contact Details

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

The BIGGA stand at BTME 2013 (Stand E32) will have an area dedicated to Learning and Development. Stuart Green will be in residence to provide you with information on a range of topics including:
• Apprenticeships
• Continuing Professional Development
• Assistants Development Programme
• Future Turf Managers Initiative
• Master Greenkeeper
• Scholarships and funding
• Online learning provision

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

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• Sales and Exhibition Information
• Sections and Regions, meet your Regional Administrator and Section Committee Members

We will also have information on:
• CourseTracker, the free new digital business management tool for golf courses, developed by the R&A
• plus an offer where BIGGA members can take advantage of offers from SkyCaddie. Please note: The Showfloor Theatre will now not be appearing at BTME 2013 as previously stated in this column.

BIGGA Annual General Meeting

The BIGGA AGM, open to all Members of BIGGA (only FULL Members are entitled to vote) will be held on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 at 5.15pm in the Queen’s Suite, remember to bring your membership card with you. Please see The Hopper service for further details.

Members Bulletin Boards

All members can gain access to the Members area of the BIGGA website and the BIGGA Stand during the show.

Personal Accident Insurance Cover for FULL Members

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Keep up to date instantly with Twitter and Facebook

Keep up to date with all that’s happening BIGGA wise on Facebook and Twitter. You can find us on Twitter on @BIGGALtd and search for British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd (BIGGA) Facebook group.

Information on all the member- ship benefits and services can be found at www.bigga.org.uk and log into the members area.

BIGGAMembership

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

Firstly…

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BTME 2013
The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition
22-24 January 2013
at the Harrogate International Centre

Your essential 8-page guide to the ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

It’s now just days until the event of the year - BTME 2013. A host of exhibitors are launching exciting new products during the exhibition – see our sneak preview in our New Product Special on pages 18-21.

Here’s some key last-minute information.

EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES
Opening times: Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd (9am-5pm). Thursday 24th January 2013 (9am-4pm).

CONTINUE TO LEARN EDUCATION PROGRAMME TIMETABLE
At the time of going to press some seminars and workshops still had spare places - however these are limited so please book NOW to avoid disappointment.
To reserve your place please click on the Continue to Learn logo at www.btme.org.uk

CATERING
Hot meals will be available in Hall C, which will also house a coffee bar, a licensed bar and an internet café. Hot snacks will be on sale in Hall B.

WIFI
Delegates and exhibitors can enjoy free Wi-Fi access during the show in Halls A, B and C. Please note that the speed of the connection - 0.5MB - will be suitable for checking emails and browsing rather than playing videos or demonstrations.
Any exhibitors requiring a large bandwidth need to order this directly from Harrogate International Centre.
Further details are available at www.harrogateinternationalcentre.co.uk

BIGGA STAND B23
Our stand is based in the same spot as last year and we expect it to be a hive of activity - so come and see us. Remember to plan a visit to meet the BIGGA Team and find information on:
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BIGGA merchandise will also be available, so if you have any questions - or just want to put a face to a name! - we’ll see you at B23.
We will also have information on CourseTracker, the free new digital business management tool for golf courses, developed by the R&A – and a special offer for BIGGA members from SkyCad-die.

Win an iPad!
Come and see CourseTracker on the BIGGA stand (B23) for the chance to win an iPad!

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New Syngenta Turf XC Nozzle launch for BTME

Syngenta is launching its new XC nozzle range at BTME. Designed to improve the accuracy and results from every application, the Syngenta Turf XC nozzle range overcomes the key issues facing turf spray operators to achieve even application. An entirely new engineered solution incorporates a unique office design with a wide spray angle, to produce an improved droplet distribution — capable of delivering even turf coverage at low nozzle heights. This resolves problems with slopes and undulations that can result in uneven spray distribution.

Furthermore, the XC Nozzle design utilises new air induction technology to reduce the risk of spray drift, whilst still creating significantly more droplets to enhance leaf coverage. To deliver more effective results, each nozzle in the range has a specifically calculated and tested rearwards facing spray pattern, which counteracts the forward movement of the sprayer to ensure consistent coverage.

The XC nozzle range will launch at BTME with three sizes: 0.25; 0.4 and 0.8 — selected to cover most turf applications at appropriate water volumes and typical spraying speeds.

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

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

Syngenta Turf XC Nozzle launch for BTME

The latest products on the market reviewed

GI

Here’s just a small selection of some of the new products, competitions and other surprises you can enjoy at BTME 2013...
BTME is back for its 24th year at the HIC, 22-24 January 2013

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Headland Amenity is bringing its range of innovative turf nutrition, health and management products to BTME 2103 at Harrogate.

The latest products on the market reviewed

Aquatrols: The Creation of an Industry

Roughly 60 years ago, Robert A. Moore pondered over a puddle in a friend’s garden – a seemingly minor moment that would go on to forever change the water management practices of green industry professionals worldwide.

A chemical engineer in research at Mobil Oil, Moore’s science-driven curiosity led him to experiment with various surfactant blends to remedy water movement issues.

Recognising that using surfactants to improve water penetration and reduce water waste had implications beyond the garden, Moore decided to patent and market his novel discovery.

In 1954 he founded Aquatrols Corporation of America, the first surfactant company specifically tailored to the needs of the Green Industry. Nearly six decades later, Aquatrols remains the market leader.

There have been plenty of changes in the field of turf management since Aquatrols introduced Aqua-Gro as the first commercially produced surfactant solution for turf maintenance. Aquatrols has over the years continued to develop Water Management products with Primter 604, Revolution and Dispatch.

There have also been changes for Aquatrols. After Robert Moore’s retirement and subsequent passing, his three children have continued Aquatrols through a period of increased competition by channeling his spirit of innovation.

Though it longer stands alone in an industry it created, Aquatrols continues to set itself apart with a commitment to science, education and conservation of precious resources. Today Aquatrols’ line is now a lineup that offer a line of cutting-edge surfactants and other specialty technologies that address a wide variety of turf managers’ needs.

With its own fully staffed research and development department, a technically knowledgeable sales force, and a long history serving turf professionals, Aquatrols has no fear of the great number of competitive products that have flooded the market since the early days.

In an age of large corporations and constant mergers, it’s refreshing to see a family owned and operated business that has not only survived for 58 years but has maintained a strong position of leadership in the industry. And to think it all started with a simple puddle.


Enviromonitors can help you at BTME

Enviromonitors’ measurement tools can help you save resources such as time, water and fertiliser applications. Enviromonitors are exhibiting for the third year on Stand B5 at BTME 2013.

Visit them to see how you can get the best out of your turf using science-based handheld meters and weather monitoring.

Enviromonitors’ measurement technology partner Spectrum Technologies Inc shall be attending BTME 2013. Spectrum’s Turf Specialist Greg Zumdahl is running the “World of Measurement Technology within Turfgrass Management” seminar on Tuesday 22nd January 2013. We encourage you to come along to confirm and/or expand your knowledge and consider the tools you can put into practice at your club. The seminar will provide an in-depth understanding of soil, plant and environmental measurement technology tools available for turf custodians. Learn how to best use the tools available to solve turf problems and help maximise playability and profits.

Enviromonitors will be happy to talk you through the products Zumdahl shall be covering in this seminar on their Stand B5.

Enviromonitors always enjoy BTME as visitors are enthused on innovations for sportsturf and landscaping professionals.

Gary Mumby: “Harrogate is a very important show for us as we get the chance to start the year by showing all our innovations for sportsturf and landscaping professionals.

"It is a great place to catch up with customers and old friends and we look forward to seeing them on Stand A40."