The Cushman 1600XD lives to conquer any job. There’s no task too big for the 22-hp diesel engine, 1,600-lb payload and massive cargo bed. And no matter where work needs to be done, you’ll get there thanks to user-selectable 4WD, a locking rear differential and 4-wheel independent suspension. So, whether you’re moving mountains or driving over them, the 1600XD is ready for action.

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WELCOME FROM BIGGA

BTME brings New Year Cheer

A Happy New Year to all, let’s hope it brings better weather and economic conditions than the last and that the amazing year of sport we’ve witnessed leads to an upturn in participation meaning more golfers and more golf.

Certainly the heroics of the European Ryder Cup team and Rory McIlroy’s ascent to being the sport’s number one superstar should provide inspiration and I know our industry is desperate to provide the excellent playing surfaces that make the game so enjoyable.

January is BTME month, the exhibition looks hungry with many of our exhibitors debuting new products and services that will make turf maintenance more efficient or effective. The Continue to Learn Education Programme is filling up nicely with the Turf Managers Conference on Monday 21st going particularly well. The balance of technical turf matters with management topics is a great reflection of the role of the Course or Facility Manager and I know that all those who attend will leave having gained knowledge and skills that will benefit their surfaces and by extension their customers.

Visitor numbers look very healthy with pre-registrations up on this time last year, I would urge all of you who are intending to come to engage through the pre-registration process on btme.org.uk to avoid the queues on arrival. All in all the signs are all pointing to another superb festival of turf management with the suppliers and manufacturers providing the platform for a few days of fantastic networking, I look forward to seeing you in Harrogate.

On a less positive note we have started to hear rumours of non-exhibiting companies who are planning to come to Harrogate and attempt to do business with visitors inside or outside of the Exhibition Halls. The Americans call this practice ‘suitcasing’ but I have a stronger term for it – Hijacking. BTME is not a viable option for a number of companies but they should have the good grace to respect those who are contributing to the event.

During BTME I am very much looking forward to meeting up with the ten successful BIGGA members (see page 26) who will make up the Bernhards Delegation to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month. This initiative is now in its 11th year and I know a high proportion of previous delegates believe that the experience of taking part has had a significant positive impact on their careers. Our thanks again to Stephen Bernhard for his long term support of this fantastic member benefit.

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Molehills
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James de Haviland asks if you’re bites

34 It’s snow joke as winter management Q&A

32 Winter course water resource project

The XC Nozzle range will launch at BTME with three sizes: 025; 04 and 08 - selected to have been practising being with a pair of clippers.

Furthermore, the XC Nozzle design utilises new air induction technology to reduce the ready. I’m monitoring it regularly groundsman’ for the pitch, said:

In the meantime, my colleagues have been practising being with a pair of clippers.

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“Apart from the seed, I think the key to the project is the correct management of the root zone,” he added.

28 Water idea

We look at Whitburn Golf Club’s huge water resource project

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65 European adventure?

Crucial advice if you’re thinking of working on the continent
We’ve had a good response to last month’s blogging article – and one of the most impressive greenkeeper blogs has emerged on the island of Jersey.

John Critchley, greenkeeper at Les Mielles Golf & Country Club, maintains an impressive blog with frequent updates and images of the team at work on the Championship course which is as picturesque a conservation area of the island.

Read it for yourself at www.lesmiellesgolfcrougs.blogspot.co.uk. It’s also pleasing to note that it’s given a very prominent spot on the club’s website – clearly visible at the top of the text on the homepage.

John says: “I started the blog in October last year to make the members aware of what we’re doing and educate them on why we follow certain practices. For example, when hollow coring we either go home or sit in the break room drinking coffee. Actually we’re servicing the machines, setting up mowers, cleaning and organizing store items, doing paint work and all manner of other tasks. It’s important to make the members aware we are always doing valuable work.

“The feedback from the Club has been positive. Members who you never thought would come to us say they have been following the blog which is great. I feel the majority of golfers don’t understand what our job entails. When the weather’s bad some believe we either go home or sit in the break room drinking coffee. Actually we’re servicing the machines, setting up mowers, cleaning and organizing store items, doing paint work and all manner of other tasks. It’s important to make the members aware we are always doing valuable work.

“The members know they have the option to contact me for more information, it is easily approachable. It’s benefitted the membership, the management and it’s created a kind of buzz within our team.”
GI NEWSDESK
The latest news from around the globe

JERSEY BLOG

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John says: “I started the blog in October last year to make the members aware of what we’re doing and educate them on why we follow certain practices. For example, when hollow coring you always tend to hear the same things from unhappy golfers. However when they are informed in advance via the blog, they understand what our job entails.

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GCMA APPOINTS NEW CEO

The Golf Club Managers Association is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Bob Williams.

Bob is well known to many within the Association, having been in golf club management for 20 years, previously Manager at Long Ashton GC and latterly at Chipping-Sodbury GC.

He is also an active member in the South West Region, notably spearheading their educational activities in recent years. Bob also played an active part in the Association’s planning group for the 2011 National Conference.

He is also currently working with the Association’s Golf Bridge and Backs New University to help develop the education programme there, including preparation of the course content.

Bob was already scheduled to help with a presentation at the BTME show at Harrogate in January, and will be attending the Regional Education Conference at Weston-super-Mare at the end of January also.

Bob will formally commence the new role on 1st February 2013, initially working closely with current CEO Keith Lloyd for a month’s handover period before Keith departs at the end of February.

GEORGE PITTs BECOMES LATEST MG

George Pitts - Course Manager at Yelverton Golf Club - has been announced as BIGGA’s latest Master Greenkeeper.

George, who is also Secretary for the Devon & Cornwall Section, lives in Okehampton and described how pleased he was to have been awarded the accolade, while highlighting how important education is.

He said: “Achieving the Master Greenkeeper certificate has been my career objective since completing my HND in 2000. It’s a great process, ensuring you meet the highest industry standards and promote professionalism to the wider golfing community.

“Education and training is key to improving the integrity of the profession and the Association. Thank you to Yelverton Golf Club for their support during the process and to various peers in the industry for their help and guidance.”

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

BIGGA volunteers are once again required to help Kenny MacKay and his team at The Wentworth Club for the BMW PGA Championship between May 23-26 2013.

Assistance will be required for any period of time during the tournament - from all four days to just one day.

The last two days will feature bunker raking, a great chance to see first hand the preparation for this European Tour flagship event, which will be held on the West Course.

All assistance will be greatly appreciated.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator at cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk or call Clive on 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

How can anything so small be so big on results?
WHAT IS PHOSPHITE AND WHAT CAN IT DO FOR TURFGRASSES?

Phosphite is a major plant nutrient, in plants taken up and used in the form of phosphate (PO₄). Phosphate (PO₄) is very similar to phosphate, only now molasses of oxygen is the difference. However, when phosphate in plant growth, phosphite cannot be utilised by plants as a source of P nutrition and importantly should not be applied to P deficient plants. Phosphite, derived from phosphorus acid in phosphoric acid, has to be modified prior to use with a neutralising substance, most commonly potassium hydroxide, producing potassium phosphite - currently marketed as a biostimulant and promoted as a means to reduce Microdochium nivale.

We have two questions to answer; Does phosphite suppress Microdochium nivalis in turfgrasses? And by what means does this occur?

To date field trials and laboratory procedures have produced interesting results. Trial plots composed of three turfgrass species were established in 2010/2011 where treatments were applied and the effect on disease incidence and turf quality assessed. Plots are assessed monthly for disease occurrence and turf quality. Results have shown applications of potassium phosphite reduces disease, but at lower concentrations caused no effect.

In summary, what can be concluded from the results of this research to date is that routine and sequential applications of phosphite, as part of an integrated disease management program, significantly reduce the incidence and severity of the disease and also gives rise to significantly improved turf quality than untreated controls.

HOLLAND IN AUSTRALIA

Abbie Holland, a greenkeeper from West Sussex Golf Club, tells GI about an incredible few months working at Lake Karrinyup Country Club in Australia.

I applied for a working holiday visa to Australia and emailed every course I could find with my CV. Lake Karrinyup replied offering me an eight-week contract over the Perth International tournament being held in October 2012. I packed my backpack, said goodbye to my friends and family and travelled to Australia. I started my adventure by diving the great barrier reef, swimming in the rainforest, whale watching, seeing dolphins and camping with dingoes – incredible.

When I walked up to the immaculately presented gardens and lush turf of Lake Karrinyup Country Club I couldn’t believe my eyes. On my first day I was on a busy course with 18 holes and an 18-strong team and had to make sure all the greens were being cut, one strimming, two mowing bent collars, present bunkers by brooming the face and raking the middle and about the properties of bent, couch and kikuyu grass. We renovated the bunkers in no time, with one person edging, two using back pack blowers, three raking up, and two cleaning the heads, followed by a bunker rake. Before this I was beyond new here but we had banks could be done so quickly and efficiently.

We scarified and topdressed the greens and cut out new aerators with triple air movers – and I had to step to move the long neck mowers, and had helped out with melting snow, weeding, tidy up the mow areas, patching the fairways and general day to day maintenance. Gradually the crew and scaffolding went up, the course was looking superb and I felt so proud to be part of it. We were all designated

South east golf & dinner

Walton Heath Golf Club hosts one of greenkeeping’s longest running events on Friday 8th March 2013. Please come along and support this hugely popular day.

For more information please contact Clare Osgood, South East Regional Administrator at clareosgood@yahoo.co.uk or call 01737 819343 or 07841 948510
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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.

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 involved breaking 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 @jackains91 on twitter or jackains91@hotmail.co.uk, or contact Greg Evans at @gregevansmg on twitter or gregevansmg@gmail.com