For over four decades MJ Abbott Ltd has expanded its scope of works to incorporate the installation of land drainage and irrigation systems, golf course construction and renovation, natural and artificial sports ground construction and maintenance and the installation of water supply and distribution systems.

Through steady growth, the company has evolved to become one of the UK’s leading specialist sports contractors. These specialist activities are carried out by directly employed staff to provide our clients with a comprehensive service based upon quality and reliability.

We have provided services to a variety of satisfied clients over the years. Examples of clients from the private sector for whom we have acted as principle contractor would include De Vere Resort Management, Ralph Trustees Ltd and many privately owned golf clubs including The Belfry, Sunningdale, Forest Pines, The Grove, The Carrick Loch on Lomond, Wentworth and Celtic Manor.

The Company is pleased to offer the following services:

- Golf Course and Sportsground construction – projects will be completed by directly employed staff and company owned machinery.
- Golf Course and Sportsground grow in and maintenance – we employ several sports turf experts who have grown in many golf courses and sports fields. We can offer a maintenance service tailored to the needs of the client.
- Land drainage – we own specialist trenching equipment operated by experts in this field.
- Irrigation systems – we will design, supply and install irrigation systems based on the client’s requirements and budget.
- Water supply and distribution – we can design, supply and install potable water systems, foul water pumping and treatment systems, borehole prognosis and installation.
- Service support – we have a team of mobile engineers who are on call to provide emergency back up should a water supply system fail.
- Trade counter, pump sales and service, Web sales and product support via our on line store www.mjabbottdirect.co.uk

MJ Abbott Ltd

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- John Deere 1020
- John Deere 1010
- John Deere 1000
- John Deere 955
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- Pedestrian Cylinder Mowers
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  - Kubota G26 - c/w: deck and hi-tip collector - £POA
  - Kubota G23 - c/w: 48” rear discharge deck + hi-tip collector - £9'000
  - Kubota G1700 - c/w: 48” deck and clam shell collector - £7'500
  - Kubota BX220 - c/w: deck and clam shell collector - £6'500
  - John Deere X740 - c/w: 54” side discharge deck + collector, various hours - choice of 5
- Ride-On Rotary Mowers
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**Rubber Crumb**

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- Lumino throwing a stop (after 20 years of golf turf experience 5 golf grades including high bent grasses on USGA rootzone, RTF for stabilization/ rootzone tolerance, WBT) www.lumino.co.uk
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BIGGA Seminars at SALTEX 2013

The Grandstand, Royal Windsor Race Course

Wednesday 4 September 2013

BIGGA is delighted to have once again, been invited by the IOG to present a series of seminars at SALTEX 2013.

10.15 am – 11.15 pm Greens Drainage - Mission Possible

A workable solution – Transforming soil based greens with Deep Thatch and Black Layer at Robin Hood Golf Club. Discover the methods used and the solution to training troublesome greens.

Presented by Andy Wood, Course Manager, Robin Hood GC.

11.30 am – 12.30 pm Sand Traps and Money Pits

This session will look at managing and constructing golf course bunkers on limited budgets, whilst retaining the past to shape our future. It will also include the art of compost creation and it’s role in modern traditional greenkeeping.

Presented by Stuart Yanwood MG, Golf Course Manager, Lynn Golf Club.

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm Go In Green…..Come Out Clean

Winter disease on golf greens is particularly problematic since there is little turf growth to allow recovery and for scars to heal. This can impact the playability of greens right through into the spring period leading to the destabilisation of gardens. An integrated approach to disease management can reduce the disease pressure, improve turf health and enhance the performance of fungicide applications. New findings on disease management will be presented along with practical advice for how to deliver smooth, disease free greens right through the high risk autumn and winter periods.

Presented by Dr Simon Watson, Syngenta Technical Manager, EAME Turf and Landscape.

BIGGA CPD Credits

- 1 CPD credit is available for each seminar.

A CPD register will be available at the end of each seminar.

quick nine hole quiz answers

1) East Stirlingshire
2) York City
3) Jose Mourinho
4) Oxford United
5) Lee Martin
6) Peterborough
7) Teddy Sheringham & Ole Gunnar Solsksjaer
8) 13
9) Chapman
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Last month Justin looked at the perils of social networking. Now in the second part of his educational look at the medium, he considers content and the increasing influence of Twitter and Facebook

The first question I’m usually asked when I speak about blogging is “How much time does it take?” The answer depends on your preference on what information you want to get out.

Remember more and more people get information in bits and pieces to their phone or tablet.

So if you post a ten page document on soil respiration and throw in a few Latin names you are likely to lose your audience, plus it is going to be a big commitment for you to write.

Try to keep the posts short and to the point and better yet add some pictures.

A picture is worth a thousand words. It will definitely help your audience understand better what a machine goes across the green, or how you are dealing with a layering problem in the greens.

The other fear that superintendents have is content. Here are a few topics that seem to keep the blog flowing and still get some variety.

• Projects – Aeration, renovations, drainage...
• Employee spotlight – Take a person on the crew and give the members an idea of who they are and what they have done.
• Frequently Asked Questions – Talk about things that people have come up to you and asked you about, and why you do these things.
• Environmental – Golf course superintendents are stewards of the environment, promote your practices that conserve and reduce.
• Did you know – Explain a more complicated topic that is behind the scenes.

New content will keep your followers interested and also understand more about your profession. Instead of the golfer yelling at one of your guys to get out of the way, they might know a little more about that staff member and introduce themselves. They can be less likely to keep the rest of the greens.

There is a lot more you can do on Twitter and Facebook.

Twitter is another way to blast information out with short messages. This is a good way to direct members and guests to your blog and post live information like weather, presents info, course closure etc.

If the golf shop wanted to get involved as well it could be a good avenue to post deals on rounds or specials on equipment.

When I first got involved to Twitter I didn’t really know what I was going to post and if anyone would really care.

Now a few years later I have gathered quite a few followers and it has become a great resource for me to post quick bits of info to inform our members about what is happening in real-time. It also has doubled as a good place to learn more about turf management.

I follow other superintendents that post information about their practices. I can ask quick questions and get fairly quick responses from many different people.

Now onto Facebook and Google+. These are both borderline time suckers. Facebook can be a great tool to connect with many people - after all, 72% of the UK uses Facebook. That means for every ten people that play your course or that are members, seven of them are updating their Facebook status about what is happening in real time. It also has doubled as a good place to learn more about turf management.

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Facebook seems much more personal, can become a strawbridge for time and I feel it’s better for revenue seekers like the golf shop.

Google+ on the other hand does have some value.

The instant upload from your smartphone’s camera makes it easy to post pictures and the hangouts can be ideal to do meetings with superintendents in your area or across the globe.

This is becoming more popular and can be combined with a new ideas for your course.

Social media can become confusing if you don’t keep it simple.

You can end up wasting your time posting to several accounts with the same information or not gain traction if you fall behind on posting content.

Keeping your investment in a blog and Twitter is a great start. These two go hand in hand and can be updated quickly and provide a lot of information to your golfers.

Use Twitter for instant information and your blog for more detailed presentations.

If you keep these two accounts simple and to the point, you should be able to keep your time commitment to a reasonable level.

Remember, you don’t want to get stuck waiting your time. You just want to increase your communication and visibility.

More than 100 years of experience goes into the making of Baroness products, giving unrivalled cutting quality and the very lowest running costs.

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Now available with a 21hp 3-cylinder diesel engine and offering industry leading light weight combined with outstanding traction, the Baroness LM315 is now available to view on your golf course.
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about the author

Justin Ruiz CGCS MG is the Golf Course Superintendent and Country Club in the US state of Washington. He has written for previous Back Nine articles and has won awards for presentations at the regional and national levels.

BTME: 2013 at Harrogate saw the Baroness stand busy over all three days with the LM315 being a real focus of attention for all visitors!